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Brown acts to curb fat cat salaries

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Chief Political Correspondent

GAS AND electricity bills could be capped by ministers in an attempt to prevent directors of privatised utilities awarding themselves huge pay rises. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is considering two plans to make enormous salary increases for "fat-cat bosses" a thing of the past.

As the proposals were being considered, Downing Street issued its own warning yesterday to the whole of the private sector that lavish bonuses and rises well above the level of inflation were no longer acceptable.

One option being considered is to keep utility bosses' pay down to new powers for regulators to intervene and cut the price of gas, electricity and water if they think directors are awarding themselves unreasonable pay rises. These cuts would be imposed on the basis that if directors could afford to put their salaries up, they could also afford to reduce prices.

Alternatively, shareholders could be given powers of veto over directors' salaries. Institutions which hold large blocks of shares - and have often failed to take an active interest in the running of the companies - could be forced to vote on the issue.

In a Green Paper published earlier this year, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said it wanted to ensure that all utility companies adopted best practice in setting boardroom pay.

"The Government is attached, in principle, to ensuring a closer link between directors' remuneration and the achievement of rigorous customer service standards, particularly for companies operating in monopoly and pre-competitive markets," the paper said.

Responses to the exercise are now in and ministers are

FOUR OF THE FATTEST CATS

Cedric Brown, the former chairman of British Gas, saw his salary rise by 75 per cent in 1994, to £475,000. With a pension package worth £5.5m he could expect to receive £316,000 a year in retirement.

Kevin Bond, the chief executive of Yorkshire Water, recently received an extra £55,000 on top of a basic salary of £185,000, with benefits in kind worth £58,000.

When Sir Desmond Pither, the former chairman of United Utilities, retired early he received a £443,000 pay-off. He earned more than £2m in five years at the company.

In 1996 Keith Henry, the chairman of National Power, saw the value of his salary package rise by 74 per cent, to £782,555. In addition to his salary of £325,000 he received a performance-related bonus of £110,000, benefits worth £12,855 and pension contributions of £334,000.

that if companies can afford to pay large increases to directors they must be overcharging customers," he said.

Average household water bills have risen by 97.4 per cent since privatisation started 10 years ago. Last April, water and sewerage bills rose by up to £17 a year, with an average of nearly £9. Some unregulated customers will be paying 9.4 per cent more - almost three times the rate of inflation.

However, water companies pay £1.3bn a year in dividends to shareholders and have diverted £6.9bn in profits to parent companies since privatisation.

Yesterday, it was reported that Britain's top executives gave themselves pay rises of 18 per cent last year despite the Government's calls for restraint. Directors of 100 top companies earned an average of £200,000, a survey revealed.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman also delivered a message to industry yesterday that their decisions affected the whole economy. "As we have said before, people have got to recognise there is a link between pay rises they award themselves and the overall strength of the economy," he said.

The Prime Minister, Mr Brown and Margaret Beckett, the President of the DTI, had all given out a strong message on pay, he added. "There is not a private-sector incomes policy, but it is clearly the view of the Government and clearly of benefit to the economy if increases relate to performance by individuals and companies."

Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman and chief executive of Marks & Spencer, recommended under the last government that big companies should use remuneration committees to recommend the level of bonuses and top pay awards, and that firms put their recommendations before shareholders.



The 22nd Lord Gray, a Conservative peer, arriving to vote at the House of Lords last night

Andrew Buurman

Peers condemn gay sex at 16

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

ANGELICAN BISHOPS attending the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury ignored appeals from the Government last night over the controversial Lords vote on equalising the age of consent for gays.

Home Office minister Alan Michael had asked peers not to support moves by Baroness Young, former Tory leader of the Lords, to block the reduction of consent to gay sex from 18 to 16. But his appeal went unheeded by the bishops, who travelled from the conference last night to attend the debate in the House of Lords in defiance of MPs and gay rights campaigners protesting outside their doors.

Baroness Young said: "It is the kind of thing that worries

mothers and fathers who have a 16-year-old son and don't want the promotion of homosexuality."

Her campaign was boosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who said lowering the age of consent for homosexuals would be a "grave error" and morally unhealthy.

Baroness Young, 72, denied it was a "Tory plot", but she was backed by a heavy contingent of Tory peers in the debate, and some from Labour. They were angry with Tony Blair and the Government for allowing the age of consent to be lowered on a free vote in the Commons and used last night's veto attack

the Prime Minister. A former Labour government whip, who is now a peer, accused the Mr Blair of giving in to the pressure from "Labour hives".

The threat of the amendment's defeat led to a day of turmoil at the Home Office. The measure is part of the Government's flagship Crime and Disorder Bill.

Labour MPs were furious at suggestions that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, would bow to the peers and allow a defeat on the age of consent for gays in order to rescue his Bill.

The Home Secretary spent the day facing a dilemma over what action to take when the Bill returns to the Commons next Tuesday. Liberal Democrats and Labour backbenchers

were lining up to protest in the Commons if Mr Straw sought to abandon the gay rights measure to save the Bill.

Ann Keen, the Labour MP who led the Commons vote to insert the gay rights clause in the Bill, was standing firm last night. "The game the House of Lords is playing is totally unknown to most of us. The European Court of Human Rights backs this, the overwhelming majority of the British public do,

as do all organisations that work with young people, and the overwhelming majority of the elected House of Commons."

Mr Straw was preparing to offer the possibility of an amendment to further government legislation in the Autumn to placate the backbenchers who supported the lowering of the age of consent for gays with a huge Commons majority of 207 votes.

Murdoch divorce may cost him billions

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

A PUBLIC and embarrassing battle over Rupert Murdoch's millions is in prospect after his wife, Anna, filed for divorce in Los Angeles, citing "irreconcilable differences" in their 31-year marriage and making an initial request for spousal support.

Since divorcing couples are obliged to split their assets equally under Californian law, Mrs Murdoch, 53, could be eligible for as much as £3.5bn of

her husband's estimated £7bn personal and business wealth.

It was no secret that the couple were drifting apart - a separation was announced three months ago by the gossip columnist, Liz Smith, in the Murdoch-owned New York Post. However, the divorce petition, dated 5 July but only filed at the Los Angeles County Su-

perior Court on Tuesday, came as a surprise since it raised the possibility of an ugly family fight for control of the News Corp media empire.

The petition said Mrs Murdoch would seek to clarify the extent of the family assets and make claims against her husband accordingly. She was said to be "unaware of the full nature and extent of the community and quasi-community assets and obligations of the parties

and will amend this petition after discovery, or at trial".

Media experts said this probably referred to a tangle of family trust arrangements whereby at least some of the Murdoch money has already been passed on to the couple's three grown-up children, all of whom work for News Corp.

In her column yesterday, Ms Smith suggested the split would be without acrimony. "The Murdochs... are now at-

tempting to amicably negotiate a settlement on their properties and interests," she wrote.

But the potential for corporate conflict is certainly there, particularly since Mrs Murdoch is a News Corp director and could, if she chose, try to lay claim either to some of her children's trust money or to the corporate holdings it represents.

Mr Murdoch, 67, met his wife when she was a trainee reporter at one of his newspa-

pers, the Sydney Daily Mirror, in the mid-1960s.

He has taken US citizenship and the couple have made Los Angeles their main home, although they have two other properties in America as well as homes in Britain and Australia.

Mr Murdoch has also made Los Angeles, where he owns the Fox film and television studio, the centre of his business empire.

Murdoch secrets, page 3

Now scientists perfect the copycat mouse

THE SCIENCE of cloning took a leap forward yesterday with the announcement that a team of researchers has succeeded in producing a colony of 22 cloned mice.

The achievement, which some scientists believed was a biological impossibility, is likely to lead to rapid development of the technique which could bring major social and scientific benefits as well as raising eth-

ical concerns. Once cloning is perfected, it is expected to lead to new cancer therapies, improvements in agriculture and in the production of pharmaceutical drugs.

Although the cloning of a mouse is in some ways less impressive than the cloning of large farm animals like Dolly the

sheep, it is far more significant scientifically. Mice make excellent experimental animals because they reproduce quickly, they are cheap to keep, and their genetics are well understood.

Experts yesterday hailed the success of the scientists led by Ryuzo Yanagimachi of the University of Hawaii, Honolulu in the US which included an international team from the US, Japan, Italy and the UK. Re-

peated failures to clone mice by the "Dolly" technique of nuclear transfer had led some to believe that the task was unachievable.

The 22 mice, which are all female, were grown in the same way as Dolly by taking adult cells whose nuclei were inserted into egg cells which were then implanted into a host mouse's womb. Each cloned mouse was born to and raised by its surrogate mother

but is genetically identical to the one that supplied the adult cell.

All the clones appear normal and healthy and have been successfully mated to produce offspring. In Dolly's case, the adult cell was taken from the udder but for the cloned mice the researchers chose a different cell, taken from part of the ovary surrounding the egg and called a cumulus cell. The first to be born has been named Cu-

mula. The technique, reported in the journal Nature, used worked better than in Dolly's case, succeeding in one in 40 cases compared with one in 277.

Professor Ian Wilmut, who led the Dolly team at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, said yesterday: "These are exciting results. They suggest that it will be possible to produce adult clones from a range of different cell types and species."

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You want to know exactly how much you're worth. What do you consult?

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The divorce case that could reveal the secrets of the Murdoch empire

BY STEVE BOGGAN

IT COULD be the biggest divorce settlement of all time, a bitterly-contested fight for the heart and soul of the world's most prolific media empire, and a legal scramble for mansions and penthouses, jewellery and stocks, cars and aeroplanes.

If Anna Murdoch wants to take half of it, there is very little her husband can do to stop her. Under California's strict "common property" divorce laws, Mrs Murdoch, 33, is entitled to 50 per cent of everything Rupert Murdoch owns. And when your husband is listed as the 55th richest man in the world, that is a lot of money.

According to the 1998 *Forbes* magazine list of the world's richest people, Mr Murdoch, 67, is worth £3.3bn. Unbelievable as it may seem, that figure would appear to be an under-estimate. Other commentators have put his wealth at up to £7bn and with 789 businesses in 52 countries, four satellite services covering three continents and more than 200 newspapers world-wide, it is not difficult to see why.

Prized jewels in his News Corporation crown in the United States include 22 television stations and the Twentieth Century Fox film studios. In the UK, it owns the *Times* and *Sunday Times*, the *Sun* and *News of the World*, and a 40 per cent dominant stake in BSkyB. There are also up to 200 newspaper titles across five continents and a satellite network covering much of Europe, Asia and South America.

Yesterday, the value of the Murdoch family's 30.78 per cent stake in the Australian-based News Corp stood at £3.156bn, before taking into account Mr Murdoch's properties, homes, savings and other investments.

Last year, he transferred the News Corp stock into the ownership of his three children, Elisabeth, 29, Lachlan, 26, and James, 24. However, lawyers for Mrs Murdoch can make a claim for some of that wealth on the grounds that it was built up while she was his wife.

The first thing the couple can fight over is their list of impressive homes in Britain, Australia and the US. In the US there is the £15m estate in Beverly Hills, complete with its Spanish-style mansion, 10-car garage, swimming pool, tennis court and servants' quarters. Then there is the mountain retreat in Aspen, Colorado, rumoured to be worth £20m, featuring a helicopter pad, and a

FAMILY HOLD THE REINS IN A BUSINESS THAT SPANS THE GLOBE

£20m mountain retreat in Aspen, Colorado

£5m apartment on Upper East side, New York

UK EMPIRE

News International owns *The Times*, *Sunday Times*, the *Sun* and *News of the World*. TV interests include a 40% holding in BSkyB which runs more than 40 channels, and is planning to major expansion with digital service.

Assets £2,193m

Elisabeth (29) BSkyB's General Manager of Broadcasting

£4m flat in St James's, London

US EMPIRE

The New York Post, 20th Century Fox and Fox TV, with 22 local city stations. Company also makes *The Simpsons* and the X-Files. Publishing house HarperCollins is also in US portfolio.

Assets £8,110m

James (24) President of News America Digital Publishing

A COUPLE DRIVEN BY SUCCESS

Rupert Murdoch, 67, and Anna Torv met in 1965 when she was a 19 year old trainee reporter on his Sydney Daily Mirror. He is the world's 55th richest man; she is a successful novelist in her own right. She remains a main board director of News Corp and has been active in the firm.

ASIAN EMPIRE

The Murdoch empire has been making inroads into the huge markets of China, India, and Pakistan with Star satellite service. Not yet developed sufficiently to be recorded separately in News Corp results.

AUSTRALIAN EMPIRE

Owns a rack of regional and local titles as well as *The Australian*. As on other continents satellite and cable also plays an important part, the company also owns 50% of Foxtel which runs 34 channels.

Assets £9,768m

Lachlan (26) Deputy Chief Executive of News Corporation

£15m estate in Beverly Hills

Calculations assume exchange rate of £1: A\$2.6

£5m penthouse overlooking Sydney harbour

£5m penthouse overlooking Sydney harbour

swimming pool in the living room. And finally, the £5m penthouse in Manhattan, New York.

In Australia, there is a £5m harbour-view penthouse in Sydney and a £7m mansion in Melbourne. And in London there is a £4m apartment in St James's.

Then, before Mrs Murdoch's lawyers begin chasing her husband's wealth through the accounting labyrinth he has set up to legally avoid paying tax - last year, News Corp paid worldwide taxes of \$103m (£62.42m) on operating profits of \$1.32bn (£800m), a rate of just 7.8 per cent - they can argue over the other trappings of wealth, such as the Gulfstream IV jet, the fleet of luxury cars and jewels and art worth millions.

It is a sad end for the couple

who met in 1965, when she was a 19-year-old reporter from one of his Australian newspapers who was sent to interview the boss. Afterwards, she described falling for his "lovely, brown, mischievous eyes."

After they announced their split in April, in the gossip column of the *New York Post*, one of Mr Murdoch's papers, it was thought Mrs Murdoch, a devout Catholic, would fight to keep the marriage together.

Now it has fallen apart, it might precipitate an early takeover of the dynasty by the couple's three children. Lachlan, head of News Ltd, the Australian arm of the newspaper empire, is tipped as the heir-apparent, although Elisabeth, general manager of broad-

casting at BSkyB, also wants to take the helm. More likely, according to some analysts, the empire could be broken up.

Until last year James had resisted the lure of the family business, choosing instead to set up his own hip-hop record label in New York. Now he is president of News America Digital Publishing, the Internet arm of Mr Murdoch's US operation.

And if the children, and their mother, choose to fight for control, there is much to fight over. In America, other interests include 50 per cent of the Fox Television networks, the *New York Post*, HarperCollins publishers and the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team.

News Corp's Sky Latin America satellite service reaches

58 per cent of 87 million homes. In Asia, its StarTV satellite service reaches 260 million homes in 53 countries. The company owns 25 per cent of Japan's satellite television service.

The News Corp network is massively profitable. Accountants at Merrill Lynch estimated recently that News Corporation will this year make

profits of US\$2.1bn on turnover of \$13.5bn.

Yet if Mrs Murdoch's lawyers want to get their hands on any of it, they must first navigate their way through the complex web of companies that filter profits and losses to Australia via a network of offshore interests in tax havens such as the Cayman Islands, the Dutch

Antilles and Bermuda. And they must find out exactly what companies with names like "Rugged Ltd", "Fruition Goal Ltd" and "Dimples Investments" actually do.

The *Independent* revealed in February that tax inspectors worldwide had been secretly co-operating to try to make Mr Murdoch's companies pay

more tax. There was scepticism as to whether they would be able to squeeze another penny out of the media mogul and his team of slick accountants.

If Mrs Murdoch manages to achieve that, tax inspectors might just join her in a celebratory glass of Champagne. Additional research by Steve McEntee

PRIVATE LIVES GO ON BOARD AGENDA

RUPERT MURDOCH's position as head of News Corporation may seem unassailable, but increasingly the state - and stability - of a senior executive's private life is becoming an important issue for companies, their boards and investors.

The financial markets are driven by psychological perceptions of what could pose a threat to future business and the bigger the personalities involved, the more likely there

is to be concern about their influence in the boardroom.

When the Murdochs announced their "amicable" separation, it was said that Anna Murdoch would remain on the board. But the divorce petition, citing irreconcilable differences, suggests that the couple have not been able to reach a friendly agreement.

The question is, how will Mr Murdoch be affected by any prolonged - and public - wrangling with his soon to be ex-wife.

Often, when an executive's home life is in tatters, he can lose the trust of his staff which can have a knock-on effect through the whole company.

Brian Staples, former chief executive of United Utilities, was forced out a year ago, less than 12 months after setting up home with his boss's secretary. On announcing his departure from the company, Mr Staples admitted there had been a "loss of confidence in him by the board".

Sir Ralph Halpern initially weathered the storm over his extra-marital affair with the 18-year-old model Fiona Wright, but resigned three years later following a 39 per cent drop in the company's profits.

It is too early to say how Mr Murdoch will react to a bitter divorce battle played out in the Californian courts but there is no doubt that the rest of the boardroom will be watching closely.

KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Bowie's cowboy film makes wildlife go west

UP IN the hills of Tuscany, the natives are getting restless. In fact the locals - in this case the local wildlife - have fled.

"The animals have gone. They won't stick around in all that chaos. It really isn't ideal," said Ugo Faralli, spokesman of the Italian League for the Protection of Birds.

The reason is the presence in the quiet Garfagnana hills of international stars David Bowie and Harvey Keitel. Along with Italian comedian Leonardo Pieraccioni, they are starring in a spaghetti Western being filmed in the area.

The locals love them and have been lured in their hundreds to come and watch the action. The wildlife has taken the alternative option. Unfortunately filming is taking place in a bird sanctuary.

Mr Faralli said he could not understand how the Cecchi Gori production group got permission. "The local council says the park authority gave the

go-ahead. The park people blame the council," he said. "It's the usual Italian passing the buck situation."

This as yet untitled movie is by no means the first to create turmoil; the history of film-making is full of stories of crews upsetting local communities by not paying their bills and creating havoc.

David Lean is said to have caused uproar in India when he destroyed an ancient temple to build a set for the Malabar Caves sequence in his 1984 epic *A Passage to India*.

"There are usually problems whenever a large Hollywood production moves into an area to start filming," said Denis Seguin, features editor of Screen International.

"You have a great number of people moving into an area - they can clog up the roads, fill

the bars. If it's a rural area, they can cause all sorts of problems."

"If it is a film involving a high-profile star, the whole event can also become a tourist attraction in its own right with hundreds of people pouring into the area just to catch a glimpse."

In spite of the setbacks and difficulties that the film crews can create, most cities, regions and countries are keen to attract film-makers to boost their local economy.

"If we get a request for a certain location, we do all we can to help them find it," said Yvonne Cheal, commissioner with the South Wales Film Commission, a body set up in 1965 to provide free help and advice to location managers.

In the last 12 months the commission has helped attract a number of high-profile productions to South Wales, including *The Fear of Flight* with Kenneth Branagh and Helena Bonham Carter, and *Merlin*.

In Ireland where there are

tax breaks to encourage film-makers, a new body - the Irish Film Commission - is currently being set up to provide assistance to producers and directors. Dozens of directors have already filmed in Ireland with productions such as *Braveheart*, *The Field* and *Robín Hood*.

Even certain scenes in films can have an effect on the micro-economy. The Crown Hotel in Amersham, Bucks, was inundated with requests from couples wanting to spend a night in its four-postered honeymoon suite after Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell filmed an amorous scene there in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Dr Doolittle The 1967 children's favourite starring Rex Harrison, upset locals in Castle Combe, Wiltshire, when the crew dammed the brook to provide the waterfront for the fictional village of Puddleby-on-the-Marsh. There were threats to dynamite the set.

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Environment: John Prescott defends reprocessing plant as European ministers strengthen position

Stop all nuclear dumping, says EU

THE DEPUTY Prime Minister John Prescott was under heavy pressure from European environment ministers last night to agree that the UK would stop all radioactive discharges from Sellafield and remove all its disused oil rigs from the North Sea.

But at the meeting in Sintra, Portugal of the OSPAR Convention, a new treaty protecting the marine environment in the north-east Atlantic, Mr Prescott was stopping short of agreement. He was defending the UK position that the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant on the Cumbrian coast needs some discharges to continue, and that the bottom parts of up to 62 British rigs might be left in place.

Other countries – especially the Scandinavians, to whose shores Sellafield's radioactivity has drifted – see these positions as unacceptable, and will be strongly critical of Britain if no agreement is reached today. The Danish environment minister, Svend Auken, was reported to have had a table-thumping argument with Mr Prescott at dinner on Tuesday night. On Sellafield, Mr Auken said: "We need a commitment to zero discharges of radioactivity. It can be done year by year and step by step, but we need a commitment to cease discharges completely."

There are two resolutions, one calling for all radioactive discharges to the sea to be brought "close to zero" – which would mean Sellafield's closure – and one with vaguer wording, backed only by Britain.

Yesterday Mr Prescott made it clear that the closure of Sellafield was not an option: "This negotiation is not about

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
in Sintra

closing Sellafield. It's about cutting down discharges as much as is technically feasible." Last night he was trying to find a form of words which would both satisfy the rest of Europe and not force the closure of the Cumbrian plant.

His position was made more exposed by the French, the only other country with a plant for the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, who had backed the UK's position but have now put forward their own resolution accepting the "close to zero" formula with the caveat of "taking into account technical feasibility".

This is the work of the French environment minister, Dominique Voynet, who is a member of the country's Green Party and who has already asked the French plant, at Cap La Hague near Cherbourg, to sketch out a no-discharges scenario for the future. This could be done by simply storing the spent fuel instead of reprocessing it – an option which British Nuclear Fuels Limited, operators of Sellafield, say is not open to them.

Britain has softened its stance on its 62 large oil platforms in the North Sea – whose substructures weigh more than 4,000 tons and stand in more than 75 metres of water. The UK now wants an option to leave in place the "footings" of the rigs, which can be anything from 10 to 30 metres high. Judging the 62 rigs on a "case by case" basis would leave Britain the theoretical option of dumping them all.

Leading article,
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John Prescott, Environment Secretary, in Sintra for the OSPAR marine conference yesterday confronted by a WWF protest

AFP

So could they shut down Sellafield?

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY

DISCHARGE OF water containing some radioactivity into the sea is an unavoidable part of the operation of the Sellafield Nuclear plant, say its owners, British Nuclear Fuels.

The reason is that the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel (to recover both unused uranium and plutonium produced by the fission process) uses water in such vast volumes that there is nowhere physically capable of storing it.

Every day it operates, Sellafield discharges three million gallons of waste water into the Irish Sea. Most of the radioactivity has been extracted by two modern cleaning plants, and what remains, BNFL says, is minute and entirely harmless.

Green groups hotly dispute this and say the radioactivity is still detectable, still accumulates in fish and sea life, and drifts to countries such as Ireland, Norway and Sweden.

At the heart of the controversy is the question of whether used nuclear power-station fuel needs to be reprocessed at all.

Modern environmental wisdom is that the spent uranium fuel rods, which have become even more irradiated and dangerous inside the atomic reactor they powered, should merely be "dry stored" – left untouched and kept in a secure bunker. This is being done by British Energy at the UK's

most modern reactor, Sizewell B in Suffolk.

Critics of reprocessing say that the dissolving of the spent fuel rods in acid to recover uranium and plutonium only produces more dangerous waste and more streams of it. Reprocessing was considered an economic necessity in the 1970s when a world shortage of uranium was thought to be looming. There is now a glut.

BNFL spent £9bn building the Thorp reprocessing factory at Sellafield which has won £12bn-worth of reprocessing contracts. There are now 6,500 tons of used fuel waiting to be reprocessed at Thorp from pressurised water reactors in Germany and Japan, and from

the UK's half-dozen advanced gas-cooled reactors.

Sellafield also has a rolling backlog of 500 tons of spent fuel from the UK's ageing Magnox reactors, which is done on the site named B205. It is this which has led to the most recent rows over discharges. Until the mid-70s the intermediate-level radioactive sludge from Magnox reprocessing was simply discharged into the sea, but public pressure forced BNFL to desist.

The sludge was kept in tanks for two decades until in 1994 the company, pressed by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, began to clean it up in a special plant built at a cost of more than £150million.

This plant cannot remove one radioactive waste product, Technetium 99, levels of which have increased dramatically in discharges into the Irish Sea.

There are only three options for Sellafield: 1) Continued reprocessing – the Government and BNFL are convinced that this is necessary, whatever the protests.

2) Close the plant – highly unlikely because of the legally binding reprocessing contracts with other countries and the jobs of the 8,000 workers.

3) Move to dry storage – impossible, says BNFL, since spent Magnox fuel cannot be dry-stored; the magnesium-aluminium alloy sheathing the uranium eventually corrodes.

Absent public workers cost £3bn a year

BY PHIL MURPHY

PUBLIC SECTOR workers are probably off on sick leave for a third more time than those working for private companies, according to a Cabinet Office report published today.

It concludes that all parts of the public sector should try to cut absenteeism by 20 per cent in the next three years, and 30 per cent over the next five years.

It also suggests that the true costs of sickness absence are much higher than previously assessed, costing the taxpayer an estimated £3 billion a year.

Recommendations in the study, commissioned by a Cabinet Public Expenditure Committee, include:

- * Offering more scope for flexible working because that tends to reduce sickness absence;
- * Withdrawing from some staff the facility to self-certify sickness absence;
- * Setting trigger points for management action after individuals have clocked up significant amounts of sickness absence; and

- * Encouraging public sector bodies to study real levels of absence by the end of next year and use them as a benchmark for improvement.

The report contains some withering assessments of the current situation, attacking what it calls "the absence culture" which pervades too much of the workforce in the public sector.

The report says: "As a segment of the economy, the public sector has traditionally been regarded as high in job security and generous in terms of leave."

"As such, the acceptable level of sickness absence was perceived to be relatively high."

"This approach to absence in public service is clearly no longer valid – if, indeed, it ever was," the report stated.

Government organisations which have tackled inherent absence problems "may have needed to work at altering this perception," it added.

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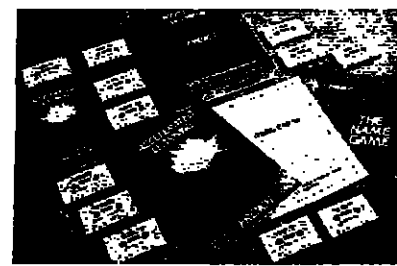
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Regulator 'too easy' on rail firms

NINE TRAIN companies ran worse services in the private sector than when they were run by British Rail, a parliamentary committee said yesterday.

MPs censured the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf), headed by former accountant John O'Brien, as being "too easily satisfied" about some train companies' performance.

The Public Accounts Committee also raised concerns over the "apparent reluctance" to suspend Government subsidies to private train companies who failed to meet performance targets.

During the rail industry's progressive privatisation since early 1996, many campaigners have urged a complete overhaul of a system which they claim puts commercial interests before customers. Ministers earlier this week released plans to sweep away Oprafr and replace it with a "passenger-focused" watchdog.

The report by MPs into the functions of Oprafr noted that nine companies had "shown a worse performance than before privatisation... we found this deterioration unsatisfactory."

By RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

especially as performance under British Rail appeared to be relatively unchallenging.

Oprafr said yesterday that the situation had improved "considerably" since Mr O'Brien gave evidence to the committee in February. "Under the incentive regime, only five companies are now below par," said a spokesman. "Those that are not delivering have good reasons for their late trains."

Latest figures show that Chiltern Railways, which runs from London to Birmingham, has run nearly one in six trains late, but Oprafr said work to upgrade the rail network had "hindered train operations".

Great Western and Thames, which run services from London Paddington, were also cited by Oprafr yesterday as having paid "large penalties" for failing to run trains on time.

Other poor performers were Great Eastern - which runs trains between London, Essex and Suffolk - and the Island line, part of Stagecoach, whose passenger rail division posted £20m profits last year.

The railway industry said it was "surprised" by some of the conclusions of the PAC. "We certainly do not regard Oprafr as soft and several train operators have felt the full sting of its considerable powers," said a spokesman for the Association of Train Operating Companies.

The PAC report is yet another blow for Oprafr, which will be abolished under the Government's White Paper on transport. Critics say because Oprafr sold off the train companies to the private sector it would be unlikely to take a tough line with the operators.

"Too often they acted as industry cheerleaders rather than public-interest champions," said Jonathan Bray of Save Our Railways. "Oprafr rushed through privatisation and found themselves out of their depth when chaos ensued."

The new railway regulator, which will be known as the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), is to have more powers at its disposal than Oprafr - including the imposition of "instant" and unlimited fines for companies failing to meet performance levels.



Ellen Farrell (right), one of the original Lyons tea house waitresses, is joined by model Lucinda English for a Nippies' reunion at the Waldorf Hotel in London yesterday, 90 years after the chain was founded. Jeff Moore

NHS worry on 2000 bug

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

NHS HOSPITALS are appealing to the Government to suspend non-urgent admissions of patients and keep tens of thousands of hospital beds free for possible emergencies during December 1999 because of fears about the millennium bug.

The NHS Confederation, representing health authorities and trusts, wants ministers to allow waiting lists to rise in the run-up to the New Year celebrations. This would free hospitals to deal with emergencies arising from computer failures that could cause transport and other accidents.

In a policy paper issued last month, published today by Computer Weekly, the confederation warns that serious accidents could follow power failures to industrial and transport safety systems.

Tim Jones, author of the paper, said the trusts needed to be prepared for the consequences of civil unrest and crime arising from possible power cuts. Beds would be needed for people suffering hypothermia owing to power cuts.

The confederation says power companies have failed to prepare adequately for the year 2000 date change, which could cause computers to crash and stop the processes they control.

Extra £5bn for homes projects

By AMANDA BROWN

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced a £5bn cash boost as part of efforts to give everyone the chance of a decent home.

People are to have more say in housing and revamping projects on property in their areas and councils will have to meet tough efficiency targets to ensure the money is well spent.

The worst neighbourhoods will get help with improved social housing and proper maintenance for council property. The aim is to tackle social exclusion and links between communities in cities and rural areas.

The Local Government minister, Hilary Armstrong, said: "We are committed to offering everyone the opportunity of a decent home. This should not be seen as a holy grail as we approach the beginning of the next millennium, but as a practical demonstration that we value each and every person in this country. Decent housing is one of the most basic requirements for individuals and has a direct effect on their self-esteem. It is a linchpin in tackling social exclusion."

To start tackling the backlog

of repairs to council properties in England over the next three years an extra £3.6bn will be allocated, allowing for improvements in about 1.5 million council homes.

And more than £3bn under the New Deal for Regeneration will help bring the most run-down estates back into repair. Regeneration and housing programmes will be brought together locally, enhancing economic and job opportunities.

Within this, £800m will be made available under the New

Deal for Communities to provide intensive help to some of the country's most deprived neighbourhoods.

The Housing minister, Richard Caborn, told a London news conference: "Local authorities have a key role to play, but they must work with their partners so that housing strategies are comprehensive and work well alongside regeneration and other policies."

"They must ensure services are of high quality and the substantial resources being invested in housing stock are used efficiently and effectively. That is what local people and the taxpayer deserve. And poor housing cannot be tackled in isolation."

He said the Government was refocusing and extending its regeneration proposal alongside its housing programmes. The Single Regeneration Budget was being re-shaped so that 80 per cent of its new resources over the next three years will be concentrated in the most deprived areas.

The plan is for more than 50 such schemes to be running by the end of this parliament.



Hilary Armstrong: Value

IN BRIEF

Appeal Court reserves judgment in Bentley conviction case

THE COURT of Appeal yesterday reserved judgment in the appeal against conviction brought on behalf of Derek Bentley, the teenager hanged 45 years ago for murdering a policeman. Lord Justice Bingham, sitting with Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Collins, said the court would announce its decision next week. Shortly before the announcement, Edward Fitzgerald QC, for Bentley, urged the judges to find that the murder conviction was "unsafe".

Bittersweet finale

THE MANAGER of rock band The Verve says he has "no idea" whether they will carry on after shows this summer. The "Bittersweet Symphony" hitmakers have been shaken by the departure two weeks ago of guitarist Nick McCabe. Manager Jaz Summers told New Musical Express that he did not know what was happening.

Shakespeare trust saves deed

CAMPAIGNERS HAVE secured a £101,900 Heritage Lottery grant enabling them to buy a rare Shakespearean document and keep it in Britain. The 1602 deed logs the playwright's purchase of 107 acres in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Shortage of eyes for transplant

AN UNEXPLAINED fall in the number of eyes available for transplant is causing alarm among doctors. Moorfields Eye hospital in London yesterday appealed for more donors.

MILES KINGTON

'Prostitutes are, I would guess, unusually law-abiding. The rules are stacked against them so much that they have to be extra-careful not to break them'

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 2

Boost for medical training

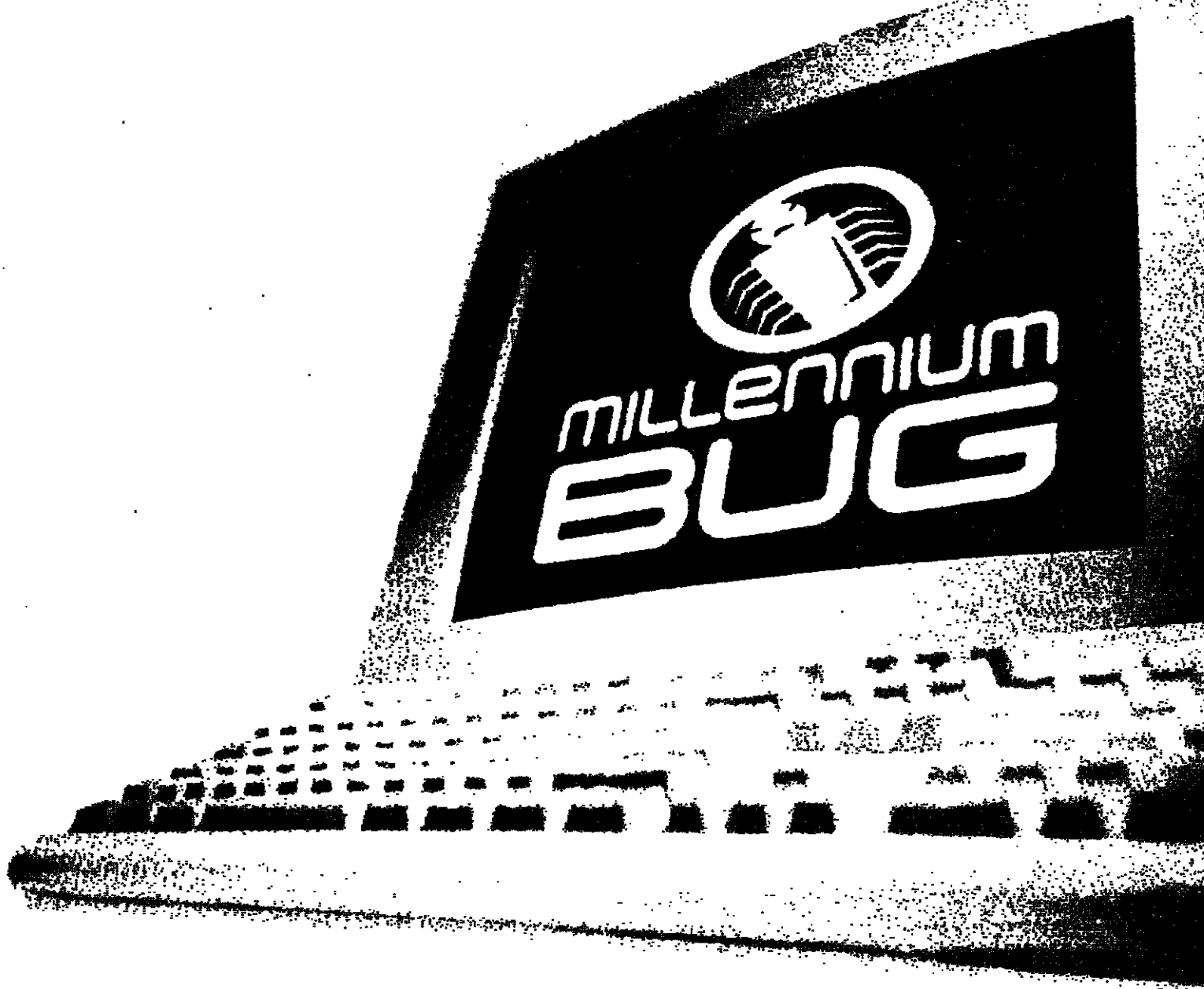
By JEREMY LAURANCE

AN EXTRA 1,000 medical school places are to be created over the next seven years to head off a projected shortage of doctors in the millennium, ministers announced yesterday.

The increase of a fifth - equivalent to a new medical school - will take the annual number of new doctors being trained in Britain from 5,000 to 6,000.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, told the Commons that an extra 450 places would be provided by 2001, with the remainder by 2005. The announcement marks the Government's acceptance of the recommendation of the Medical Workforce Advisory Committee, which called for the increase of 1,000 places last November.

The committee estimated that the demand for doctors will rise at 1.7 per cent per year over the next 20 years, similar to the trend in the last 20 years. It said that an increase of 1,000 in the annual medical student intake would not produce a domestic oversupply by the year 2020, "under any realistic scenario". The new student places will be allocated among the existing medical schools.



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BBC stalls on new contracts

THE BBC's leading newsreaders are in uproar because the corporation is refusing to renew their contracts before planned changes to its news programmes. Meanwhile, a power struggle is breaking over who will secure the lead newsreader position on a revamped Six O'Clock News that has been dubbed "Son of Nationwide" within the corporation.

Peter Sissons, Michael Buerk, Justin Webb and Edward Stourton will all see their contracts end before the end of the year but have been told that the BBC will not renew them

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

automatically. Anna Ford and Martyn Lewis are also thought likely to be affected. In the past, their new contracts would have been resolved in advance. Instead, the corporation is waiting to announce the outcome of its long-delayed review of news programmes. The so-called programme strategy review was begun last year amid fears that the presentation of news is going above viewers' heads, concentrates too much on Westminster and is losing younger viewers.

The review should have reported to the BBC's board of governors by early summer but has been delayed until the autumn.

"It is an amazing position," says one well-known newsreader. "Everyone who presents has been told there are no contracts being renewed, no matter who the person is. The problem is that everyone expected the review to be completed. The delay has caused a mess."

Some newsreaders are concerned that the BBC will use the review to slim down its roster of presenters so that the

channel becomes more like ITN which uses the same faces almost every night on ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5.

As well as fighting for their jobs, some presenters are also jockeying for position to see who will front the proposed replacement for the Six O'Clock News. BBC managers are thought to favour a longer, more magazine-style news programme. It would run for an hour and would lead into the regional news magazines like the Seventies current affairs show *Nationwide*.

The BBC is also thought to be looking for a younger, female

presenter in the mould of ITN's Katie Derham to inject some vigour into its new shows.

"No one knows what they are going to be presenting and so they can't be given contracts," says one BBC News insider. "There is a lot hanging on which bulletins they get allocated, so many of them are very worried."

A spokesman for the BBC denied that there will be a cull, saying: "If someone's contract ends this week it will be renewed but everyone knows the review is taking place and everyone will have to wait and see the outcome."

Making the BBC's revamp of its news and current affairs output even more complex is the question of what to do about Scotland. With the country getting its own parliament, BBC Scotland is agitating to get at least one major bulletin that would supply Scottish, UK and international news from an Edinburgh or Glasgow studio and news room. A *Scotland at Six* programme is currently the favourite option.

Also worried about their position in the new line-up are the producers and journalists on the flagship political Sunday morning show, *On the Record*.

So far, the main changes to feed through on to screens from the programme review have been the way newsreaders and reporters write their scripts. Out has gone jargon-heavy language that uses terms like "three-line whip" and in has come more explanation and context to stories.

Carlton Television has appointed Steve Hewlett, head of factual programmes at Channel 4, as its new director of programmes. Hewlett is a former editor of *Panorama* and started his career as a researcher on *Nationwide*. He replaces Andy Allan.

Another revamp for Sky Movies

BY PAUL MCCANN

THE SATELLITE broadcaster Sky, under pressure from publicans and the public over high subscription prices, re-launched its movie channels for the second time in nine months yesterday in an effort to give viewers better value for money.

Sky announced three new channels to replace Sky Movies One and Two, which were launched last November. The company hopes Premier, a new channel of blockbuster films hosted by BBC veteran Barry Norman, will bring viewers back to its movie services. A second channel of more arty films and one for "classic" movies are also planned.

Once Sky begins transmitting digital signals there will be 11 channels carrying films, all with staggered start times so at least five movies will begin every hour. "In any one evening there will be 25 films to choose from at a time to suit their lifestyle," said Elisabeth Murdoch, Sky's general manager of broadcasting. "That represents a revolution in movie choice."

But subscription rates are rising, and one group of subscribers is taking the channel to the Office of Fair Trading for a second time because of a 39 per cent increase. The Federation of Licensed Victuallers, The Guild of Master Victuallers and the Scottish Licensed Trade have all submitted complaints to the OFT. Sky claims it has to raise the prices pubs pay for Sky Sports to pay for its £870m deal for exclusive rights to Premiership football.

Tony Payne, head of the FLV, said: "An average pub was paying £5.99 a month in 1993 for Sky. By last year that had gone up to £78 a month and this year they want to put it up to £185 a month. They used public houses to get the public interested - now people have signed up at home they're not so bothered about us."

TOP PRESENTERS WAITING TO HEAR THE NEWS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE



PETER SISSONS

Long-time presenter of Channel 4's heavyweight news. Attracted to the BBC in 1993 by a hefty signing-on fee, Sissons, 56, was quickly judged too serious for *Question Time* and has since been one of the main anchors for the *Nine O'Clock News*. Carried much of the coverage of the day of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, on his shoulders.



MICHAEL BUERK

Will be forever associated with the first heart-breaking reports from the Ethiopian famine of 1984. Credited with inspiring the world to action, which included *Band Aid* and *Live Aid*. Now 52, he shares main billing on *The Nine O'Clock News* with Sissons. Also hosts 999, the emergency reconstruction programme, and, more suitably, *The Moral Maze* on Radio 4.



MARTYN LEWIS

Usually seen hosting the *Six O'Clock News*, Martyn Lewis attracted widespread derision from colleagues and commentators in 1993 when he called for "less depressing" news. If the worst fears of the strategy review are realised his time may have come. Lewis, 52, writes books about dogs and cats in the news and does lots of charity work.



ANNA FORD

A veteran from the early days of female newsreaders, Anna Ford, 54, has suffered for her looks and cut-glass accent. Just this week the *Six O'Clock News* presenter lashed out at the many men in broadcasting who had crossed her. A hero to many for throwing a glass of wine at Jonathan Aitken and waking up Middle England by swearing on the *Today* show.



ED STOURTON

Toiling away at the *One O'Clock News* where few at work see him, Stourton, 40, is better known for replacing Nick Ross on Radio 4's phone-in show. Keeps his hand in as a reporter and still does the odd *Panorama*. Came under fire in Bosnia and, while a reporter at ITN, famously described Britain taking over the six month "pregnancy" of the European Union.

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Demob-happy MPs enjoy Prime Minister's playtime

MPs WERE getting demob-happy as the Prime Minister faced his penultimate question time, yesterday, before the summer recess.

Mr Blair and Mr Hague traded insults on transport and the economy with plenty of synthetic heat and not much daylight.

The Leader of the Opposition began by describing John Prescott's announcement, earlier in the week, as "a dog's breakfast" and upbraided him for being absent "presumably his bus is running late". Actually the Deputy Prime Minister is in Portugal being greener-than-thou while trying to sort out nuclear dumping but Mr Hague's one-line asides are becoming reg-

ular, morale-raising entertainments for his backbench troops.

The two leaders asked each other pertinent questions which required answers that the other avoided. They both sounded a little jaded and could do with a holiday. Mr Hague's yellowish pallor suggested that he should be giving top priority to the bucket and spade and Mr Blair's bronzed complexion suggests more than a hint of make-up.

They slugged it out over the public expenditure announcement, with Mr Hague saying the government's economic forecasts were wildly over-optimistic. Nothing new here. I have never heard a Prime

Minister or Chancellor be anything other than optimistic even when the depths of recession were staring them in the face. Norman Lamont's "green shoots" are still remembered. The Prime Minister, as he nearly always does, side-stepped the question and, in exasperation, Mr Hague prayed in aid a sheaf of Treasury papers which he then chucked across the despatch box.

Mr Blair smiled at the gimmick and said: "Instead of throwing bits of paper at me" the Tories should say whether they wanted more or less public expenditure.

Paddy Ashdown, celebrating 10 years as leader of the Liberal De-

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

ocrats, got in on the act. Every time he is called by the Speaker there are, without good reason, groans from Tories and Labour. "I am most grateful for the good

wishes of honourable members if that's what it's supposed to be," he said to general derision. "You're wrong again," shouted out Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover).

Mr Ashdown said that for every one per cent increase in inflation there was a potential £50n reduction for health and education. The Prime Minister reiterated his faith in the government's forecasts and said the additional resources provided were substantially more than Liberal Democrats were promising they would spend from an additional one penny on income tax.

Dr Norman Godman (Lab, Greenock & Inverclyde) was concerned that the United States were

not paying their United Nations dues to fund peacekeeping. He wanted to know when Mr Blair was going to "stand up to these people on Capitol Hill". The Prime Minister pointed out that among his many and various duties "responsibility for the American Congress isn't one and I'm pretty thankful for that".

No Prime Minister: that really would be a different cup of tea - having, like President Clinton, to argue your case to a legislature controlled by the opposition would really give us the chance to see what you are made of.

We rounded off playtime with a point of order from opposition ju-

nior trade and industry spokesman Christopher Chope (C, Christchurch) who wanted a statement on press allegations that Nigel Griffiths, the Trade Minister, has had rows with his civil servants. Apparently they don't like him coming in at 7am and working too hard and he has broken the traditional rule of silence on relations between mandarins and ministers. It is alleged that Mr Blair has asked for reports on junior ministers from senior officials to help him decide on his reshuffle.

I'm on Mr Griffiths' side. In any battle between ministers and civil servants my rule is always "up the minister".

Blair rejects Hague's 'dog's breakfast' jibe

TONY BLAIR yesterday launched a robust defence of the Government's public transport spending plans, challenging William Hague to spell out which of the proposals he would cut.

The Prime Minister's demand came after Mr Hague had challenged him to rule out new taxes on motorists, and labelled the Government's plans "a complete dog's breakfast".

The Opposition leader said of the Transport White Paper announced on Monday: "Isn't it the truth that it's elderly people and low-income motorists, people only just able to pay for a car and can't afford an increase in the cost of using their car, who will be hit hardest by the new taxes you've proposed, without any guarantee that they will receive any benefits in return?"

The Prime Minister retorted: "I think the Conservative attack on the possibility of congestion charges and taxes reaches new heights of opportunism and hypocrisy, even for them."

"Let me quote from the April 1996 document put out by your Government when you were a Cabinet member. It said that local authorities are to take the main role in deciding the right strategies for their areas."

"They have to have suffi-

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

By DAISY SAMPSON

cient powers for the job. These may include powers to restrain traffic by local licensing measures or electronic charging, or powers aimed at reducing the provision of off-street non-residential parking.

"It then went on to say the Government will therefore discuss with local authority associations, with the presumption in favour of introducing legislation in due course."

"So we are taking forward precisely the work that your Government did ... and our plans for pensioners and for rural transport will help those on low incomes, not harm them."

The Conservative leader again pressed for a "guarantee" that new taxes would not be levied against "school-run mothers ... people struggling home with their weekly shopping, and people in the countryside."

He told MPs that the Government's figures on investment were faulty. The £1.8bn extra investment above Tory spending plans the Government claimed to be putting into transport amounted to only £22m in "new money", he said.

In what is likely to be the Government's mantra from now until the election, the Prime Minister asked Mr Hague to clarify his spending-cutting policy. "You appeared to be attacking us for not spending enough on transport."

"Yesterday you were telling us our spending plans were dangerous and irresponsible," he said.

Mr Blair told the House that unvalidated waiting-list figures for June showed a further fall of 20,000.

Mr Hague later challenged the Prime Minister over spending increases of £110bn and the growing social security budget. He said this looked "increasingly like a reckless gamble with jobs and prosperity in this country".

But Mr Blair insisted the forecasts for the economy were good and that Britain would have a current account surplus, as opposed to the deficit under the Tories.

The debt to gross domestic product ratio was down, he said, and borrowing would come down to near zero.

Mr Hague, holding Treasury forecasts, said the Chancellor's department admitted the Government's forecasts were more optimistic than 27 leading City forecasts.



Paddy Ashdown and his wife, Jane, on 28 July 1988, when he became leader of the then Social and Liberal Democrats. Ten years on, he declared yesterday that he will lead the party into the next election and beyond

Redwood linked to 'bandits' says MP

MUTUAL SOCIETIES

By DAISY SAMPSON

JOHN REDWOOD was attacked in the Commons yesterday over links with a company aimed at promoting demutualisation of building societies.

Labour's Tony McNulty MP (Harrow East) was twice warned by the Deputy Speaker, Sir Alan Haselhurst, as he criticised the shadow President of the Board of Trade for being a director of Murray Financial.

The charges came in a short debate on mutual societies.

Mr Redwood was not present, but the Opposition spokesman John Whittingdale accused Mr McNulty of souring the debate with cheap party-political points.

Mr McNulty said demutualisers like Murray Financial were not there "to serve the interests of current or future savers". They were "corporate charlatans raising funds to seek to wreck mutual societies".

Mr Redwood's links with Murray Financial Corporation, for which he is paid £12,000, was reported in *The Independent* last month. It recently made its market debut as a new society-acquisition vehicle.

Mr McNulty branded the company a "bandits' trust for demutualisation". He added: "The notion that anyone on the front bench opposite would have anything to do with them is quite a travesty."

Sir Alan intervened to warn: "You are sailing very close to the wind in your references to Mr Redwood."

Later, after Mr McNulty had said it was a pity that any MP was involved "in such disreputable business", Sir Alan warned him again, this time asking for the withdrawal of the remark.

Mr McNulty said: "I certainly shall. I was referring to the disreputable business of these companies. I would not impugn any Member here for having disreputable behaviour and happily withdrawing it."

In a debate last week, Mr Redwood: "I am a director of that company, which is not out to undermine building societies."

£40,000-a-year lure to stop teachers' exodus

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday wielded a big stick over failing schools, but offered high-flying teachers a substantial carrot.

Stephen Byers, schools standards minister, combined a warning that some schools were "beyond redemption" and should be closed, with an assertion that all successful teachers should be paid £40,000 a year. The big mistake was to regard all 150 local education

SCHOOLS

By BARRIE CLEMENT

authorities, 24,000 schools and 100,000 teachers as the same, he told the Commons Select Committee on Education. "They are all different and should be treated differently and rewarded differently," he said. Weak schools should be given two years to improve or face closure.

The minister said that he would like all teachers to be "excellent" but conceded that this would not happen. However, he pledged that there would be no "cap" on the number of teachers who would qualify for extra pay because of their performance.

From September, there will be considerable flexibility over teachers' pay in the newly-created Education Action

Zones, with some earning £40,000 a year. Mr Byers said there was no reason why staff elsewhere should not be paid similar amounts for providing pupils with an "excellent education".

An Education Green Paper due out in the autumn would go much further. It would contain proposals for a new employment contract for teachers and plans for improved pen-

sions, which would apply from 2000.

Mr Byers confirmed that performance-related pay would be introduced, based on an assessment of the particular institution, its catchment area and the "added value" contributed by the teacher.

Mr Byers said the profession was "not adequately valued". It often went unreported, but he believed that many teachers

were "doing a good job, often in difficult circumstances".

It had to be recognised, nevertheless, that some were doing a better job than others and should be offered more pay.

He said that some teachers were subject to abuse and it was the Government's aim to ensure that they were able to work in a professional environment.

While the pay for new grad-

uate teachers was comparable with salaries elsewhere, there seemed to be an exodus five to seven years into their careers.

At time when many of them were thinking of starting families and beginning to take on larger mortgages, they saw the salaries of university contemporaries in other professions begin to soar. That problem had to be addressed, he said.

Mr McNulty said: "I certainly shall. I was referring to the disreputable business of these companies. I would not impugn any Member here for having disreputable behaviour and happily withdrawing it."

THE HOUSE



Car parking

PLANS TO approve a £2.34m refurbishment of the House of Lords car park just days after company parking was taxed were blocked by peers last night. The Lords voted by 148 to 142 against the refurbishment of Old Palace Yard.

Today

■ Commons: Treasury questions. Northern Ireland Bill, committee. Adjournment debate on Junction 8 of M62 (Helen Jones, Lab Warrington N)

■ Lords: Scotland Bill, committee. Special Immigration Appeals Commission (Procedure) Rules. Conditional Fee Agreements Order. Food Protection (Prohibitions) (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning) Order.

Hospital waiting lists cut by 21,000

NHS TARGETS

By FRAN ABRAMS

HOSPITAL WAITING lists dropped by 21,000 last month, the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, announced yesterday.

Mr Dobson told a Commons committee hearing that the number of patients waiting for treatment had dropped significantly in June compared with the end of April.

Ministers had faced criticism over waiting lists as they continued to rise after Labour came to power. Yesterday, Mr Dobson told MPs that the tide had turned. "In the run-up to the general election we promised that we would get them down because they were too long, and that is a promise we intend to keep," he said.

Unconfirmed figures for the end of June showed a total of 1,287,000 people waiting, compared with 1,308,000 in May. At the end of March the figure was 1,297,000 but it rose in April and stayed constant in May before beginning to drop.

Last year, the waiting lists continued to rise despite

Labour's promise. The Government's target is 1,160,000 by April 1999, and 1,060,000 by the end of this Parliament.

Mr Dobson also told the committee that last week's Comprehensive Spending Review would mean significant extra funding. The National Health Service would get £3bn extra next year, £5.9bn in 2000-2001 and £8.6bn in 2001-2002, he said. That would mean an average of 4.7 per cent in real terms, compared with an average increase of 2.5 per cent in the last parliament.

Confirming the fall in waiting lists at question time, the Prime Minister also announced that the intake of students to medical schools was to be raised by 1,000.

"The reason we have put the substantial extra amount of money into the NHS is to give it the investment that it needs, but to couple that with the reform that it needs as well. One of those reforms is to get rid of the Tory internal market and devote those resources to health care, another is to end the two-tier nature of the health service," Tony Blair said.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Social Fund

THE ANNUAL report on the Social Fund for 1997-8, published last night, records that total gross expenditure was £520.5m. That included almost two million non-repayable grants and interest free loans worth £462m and 48,000 funeral payments, 197,000 maternity payments and 55,000 cold weather payments worth a total of £58.5m. Pensioners received a total of £200m in winter fuel payments. The Under-Secretary at the Department for Social Security confirmed the report's publication.

Transport

The Secretary of State for Scotland announced last night the publication of his White Paper on integrated transport. Mr Dewar said that his paper "will begin a new chapter in the history of Scottish transport" in answer to a written question from Des Browne (Lab, Kilmarnock and Loudoun).

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Top restaurants close as staff desert posts after sacking



Chef Gordon Ramsay at The Aubergine restaurant

Tony Buckingham

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

THE CAPPUCCINO of haricots blancs with sauté girelles and graté truffe is off tonight. So is the braised tranche of brill with baby courgette farcie and tagliatelli of chervil, served with a veloute of fèves. In fact the whole kitchen is closed. An unseemly spat has broken out in the temperamental restaurant business, leading to the shutting of two of London's top eateries.

Forty-five workers at Aubergine, in Fulham, and L'Oranger, in Piccadilly, have walked out in protest over the sacking of a chef. They blame the rebellion on the forced departure of the award-winning chef Marcus Wareing last Saturday.

Staff have also been unsettled by the resignation earlier this week of Gordon Ramsay, the restaurant's consultant chef, who is planning to open a restaurant bearing his own name in Chelsea.

A-Z Restaurants Limited, which owns both, decided to

Selection from Aubergine's set menu at £50 per head for three courses:

Starters

Ravioli of lobster poached in a lobster bisque, served with fine basil purée and confit tomatoes.

Ham knuckle, calf's tongue, foie gras pressé, served with a salad of green beans.

Main course

Filet of turbot poached in red wine, served with creamed leeks, pomme purée, baby

spinach and sauce Saint Emilion.

Ballotine of poulet de Bresse cooked in its own stock, served with a light morel sauce.

Baby spring lamb with crushed new potatoes, sautéed artichokes and thyme jus.

Desserts

Apricot soufflé served with chocolate sorbet amaret.

Tarte tatin of pears with vanilla ice-cream.

French Cheeses

nation from A-Z Restaurants, he said. "They override my decisions, so what is the point of continuing my consultancy?"

A-Z Restaurants refused to comment yesterday on when the restaurants - which have six-month waiting lists for a table - will be re-opened.

A rebel kitchen worker at L'Oranger said yesterday: "We work for Mr Ramsay and Marcus, not for A-Z management."

Mr Wareing, L'Oranger's one-star Michelin chef, was escorted from the restaurant's premises on Saturday following a dispute with A-Z management.

Mr Ramsay, a former Glasgow Rangers footballer, said: "I have enjoyed five fantastic years at Aubergine but I feel that now is the time to move on. My ambition is to obtain a third Michelin star and I believe the new restaurant will achieve this goal."

Police are investigating the theft of nearly £1,500 of tips and vandalism of L'Oranger on the night of Mr Wareing's sacking.

close the restaurants on Tuesday night after disgruntled staff phoned in sick.

It is believed that many of the workers will join Mr Ramsay, an acclaimed two-star Michelin chef when he opens his restaurant in September.

Mr Ramsay said last night that he was angry that A-Z had sacked his "right-hand man". He added: "My staff have submitted one week's notice

and phoned in with food poisoning. The staff met together after the sacking of Marcus Wareing and are totally disgusted. They have got no interest in working out their notice. I can't force them to work their notice."

Mr Ramsay said that the staff members had told management that they had been struck down with food poisoning.

Commenting on his resignation from A-Z Restaurants, he said: "They override my decisions, so what is the point of continuing my consultancy?"

Tesco in battle to end hi-fi 'price fix'

THE MAJOR supermarket groups turned up the heat on higher-priced consumer goods yesterday with plans to introduce heavily discounted electrical goods and cosmetics.

Tesco led the way with a scheme to sell compact disc players for £50. It has commissioned Amstrad to produce £750,000-worth of the machines under its own Fidelity brand after being refused supply by other major manufacturers.

The chain also vowed to continue selling "grey market" designer goods bought through unauthorised channels, despite a European Court ruling last week that it is illegal to sell such products if they are sourced from outside Europe.

Asda also kept up the pressure on cheap goods acquired from the "grey market" yesterday with a range of Clarins cosmetics sold for up to 20 per cent off high-street prices.

An Asda spokesman said: "Like perfume companies, skincare brands want to control supply of their products so they can maintain high prices. But we're not prepared to tolerate this kind of cosy cartel."

Asda is due tomorrow to meet Nigel Griffiths, the consumer affairs minister, to discuss the implications of last week's European ruling, which Asda says plays into the hands of "snoopy brand owners".

Tesco's move to stock CD players nationally is part of a series of aggressive pricing moves into electrical goods. In May it sold Amstrad 25-inch televisions for £250. Tesco is also running a regional trial selling Fujitsu personal computers for £799.99, around 25 per cent below equivalent high-street prices. The trial is so far in only two Tesco stores, in Pitsea, Essex and New Malden, Surrey, but demand has been so strong that the scheme might be expanded.

The system of electrical goods manufacturers suppos-

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

edly "fixing prices" by recommending a selling price to retailers will become illegal in September, following a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report. Manufacturers and retailers say prices are similar not because of any "fixing" but because the electrical goods market is so competitive.

John Gildersleeve, Tesco's commercial director, said: "Big-name electrical suppliers seem reluctant to let us into the market. Because of the tight-knit nature of the electrical goods community competition has been limited, but fortunately for the British consumer some manufacturers are now breaking ranks and working with us to give better value to shoppers."

The major supermarkets have been aggressively expanding their non-foods sales with moves into cosmetics and toiletries, electrical goods, perfumes, designer clothing, music and video and housewares like pots and pans.

Asda has ambitions to make its George brand of clothing Britain's second-biggest clothes name, after Marks & Spencer's St Michael. Tesco has been targeting electrical goods, designer clothing and takeaway food, such as pizzas. Sainsbury's this week opened its first in-store coffee bar in its Clapham branch.

Asda is looking to add drive-thru restaurants at many of its stores to offer customers a range of food to go, such as Chinese, Indian and Tex-Mex. New figures yesterday also showed that Sainsbury and Tesco have grabbed 9 per cent of new British credit-card lending over a 12- to 18-month period.

Asda says it has increased its non-food sales by 75 per cent in five years as it attacks new markets.

Hopes rise for free museum admission

THE MOST dramatic few days for Britain's national museums began yesterday with nearly £39m of lottery money going to the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside.

Tomorrow, the Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, will announce details of his department's spending plans, which will include widening access to museums, almost certainly through extending free admission.

Both the V&A and the Merseyside galleries, which include the Liverpool Museum, the Walker Art Gallery and the Museum of Liverpool Life, charge for entrance. They will

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

be waiting to see whether lottery largess will be followed by the promise of the restoration of free admission.

Yesterday it was announced that the Merseyside galleries are to receive £23.97m from the Heritage Lottery Fund - its second largest single grant - to upgrade galleries and put more treasures on public view, while the V&A in London will get £15m.

The new galleries will house more than 3,000 pieces of fine and decorative art and will tell the story of British art, craft and design from the Middle Ages through to the Victorian period.

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Wartime papers: SOE documents reveal Whitehall's 1944 plans for the assassination that never was

Secret British plot to kill Hitler

BY JOHN CROSSLAND

BRITISH AGENTS secretly plotted to kill Adolf Hitler during the final months of the Second World War, according to papers made public yesterday.

A detailed 120-page dossier approved by Sir Winston Churchill, the wartime prime minister, set out options for assassination methods ranging from a lone sniper attack to an all-out airborne assault by SAS paratroops on the Nazi dictator's mountain hideaway.

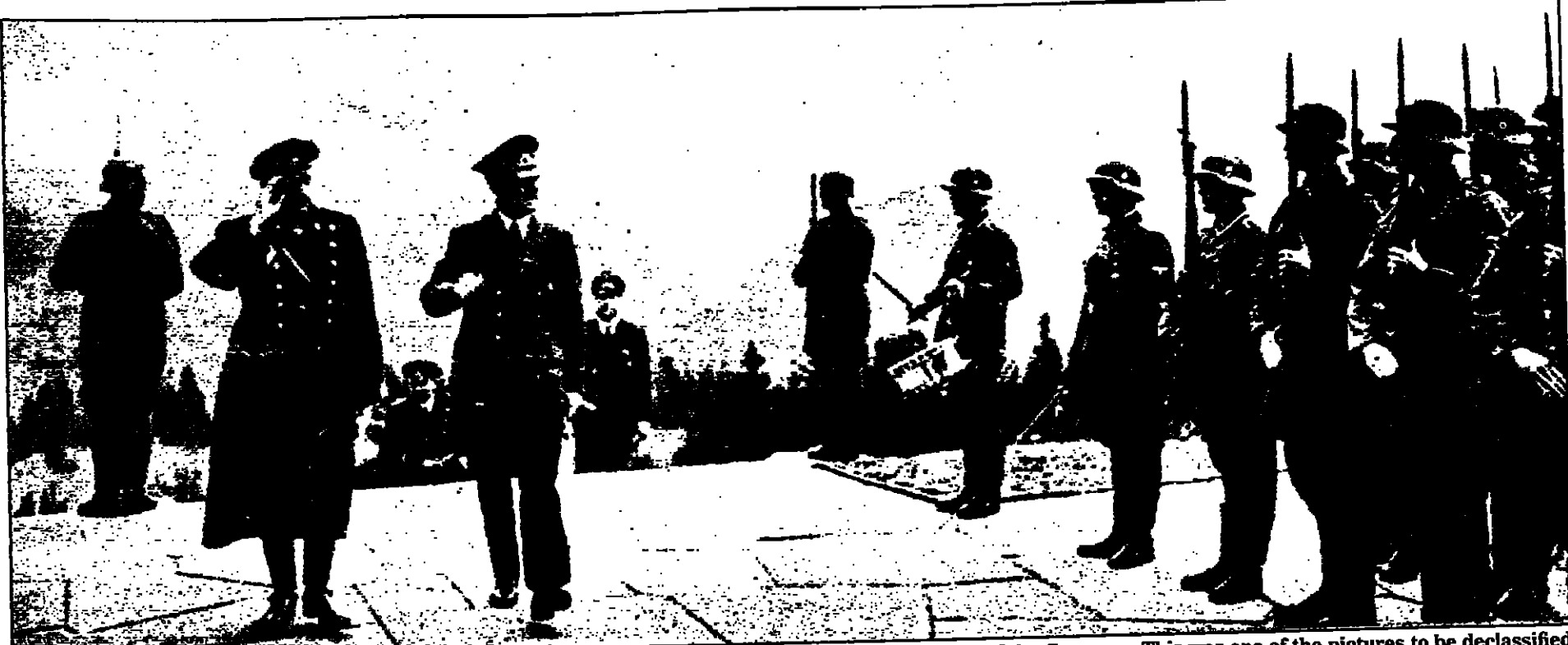
The report, drawn up by the Special Operations Executive, the wartime secret service department responsible for operations behind enemy lines, reads like an extract from a best-selling novel. It was among 1,000 top secret files released by the Government yesterday from the Public Records Office, Kew.

According to files on "Operation Foxley", Churchill was personally informed that the defence Chiefs of Staff had given their blessings to the project.

Before the war ended they had even identified and approached a potential assassin to carry out the hit. Captain Edmund Halley Bennett, from Stockport, was prepared to stalk Hitler on one of his lonely morning walks in the grounds of his Berchtesgarden headquarters and pick him off with a sniper's rifle.

But the plan was bitterly opposed by some senior figures in the SOE who believed that Hitler's capacity for strategic blunders meant he was more use alive.

Operation Foxley was devised after a bizarre telegram from SOE's office in Algiers on



The SS forms a Guard of Honour at Berghof for Adolf Hitler and King Boris III of Bulgaria, an admirer of the Germans. This was one of the pictures to be declassified

19 June 1944, saying a source had put up an immediate project for killing Hitler. Clearance came from the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, and a cable was sent to Churchill informing him.

In the event the plan, based on a tip-off from a French colonel that Hitler was staying at a chateau near Perpignan, came to nothing. However it planted the germ of an idea in the mind of the head of SOE, Major General Colin Gubbins, who decided to form a "group" to co-ordinate attempts to "liquidate" the Führer.

Summoning his senior staff officers to a meeting in Room 312 of the War Office on 28 June, he told them that they would need to find out Hitler's whereabouts and then work out a way to "deal with him".

"At some time or other in the near future Hitler must in any case disappear from the scene, even if we should not be the direct agents for his elimination, and we can at least prepare such action to be taken on his disappearance as will contribute best towards the situation most favourable to the Allied nations," he noted.

It was decided that they would start work on Operation Foxley forthwith and a reluctant "C" - the head of MI6, Stewart Menzies - was approached for help. "I cannot say he was exactly enthusiastic or optimistic," Gubbins noted.

This lack of enthusiasm extended to elements of SOE, some of whom were deeply opposed. The head of the German section, Major Field-Robertson, argued passionately against such an attempt.

He warned that the Germans would "canonise" Hitler as a martyr, while it would be

"disastrous" for the Allies if it was believed they had to resort to these "low methods" because they were unable to defeat the German military machine.

The opposing viewpoint was put by SOE's air adviser, Air Vice Marshal AP Ritchie, who said Hitler was held to be "something more than human" by a large section of the German population. "Remove Hitler and there is nothing left."

It was this view that held and by late 1944, a file was prepared on a possible assassination at-

tempt. The dossier contained exhaustive details of habits and movements of Hitler and his entourage - down to the time of his morning walk and the way he drank his tea.

There were dozens of photographs and maps of the area around Berchtesgarden, his hideaway in the Bavarian Alps, and plans of his personal train, the Führerzug.

However, there was little detailed military planning, with only the outline of three basic options: a sniper attack, derailment of the Führer's train with explosives or an aerial

bombard of Berchtesgarden while an SAS battalion was parachuted in to mop up the 260 or so defenders and kill Hitler.

If none of those appealed, they could always resort to poisoning the Führerzug's water supply or impregnating his clothing with a lethal bacteria.

By spring 1945, things were sufficiently advanced for the question of who the killer should be. But the War in Europe was by now in its closing stages and a little over a month later Hitler was dead by his own hand.

Labour activist jailed for fiddling expenses

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A LABOUR councillor jailed yesterday after an investigation into the notorious "Donnygate" scandal said that fiddling expenses was standard practice.

Jack Riley, 69, a Labour member of Doncaster Council, was sentenced to 28 days in prison after admitting three counts of falsifying his expenses. He illegally claimed a total of £214. Riley was suspended by Labour when the allegations were made.

When asked by detectives why he fiddled his expenses, he replied: "It was standard practice. I acted on the advice of other councillors. It was not right, but I went along with what I was told."

The police operation, code-named Operation Danum, was launched last April to investigate widespread claims of malpractice within the Labour-dominated council.

Concerns about wrongdoing - including drunken, 250-a-head working lunches and trips to China and Hong Kong - were reported in *The Independent* as early as February last year. Four other councillors are under arrest.

Yesterday Doncaster magistrates heard that Riley, from Rossington, near Doncaster, put in two claims for first-class travel to attend a conference when he had travelled standard class. He claimed mileage for a journey on which he had been driven by a council driver.

His solicitor, Paul Bullen, said Riley was thoroughly ashamed of his actions and had already paid the money back to the council. He said he had served the community for more than 20 years and his reputation was now at "rock bottom".

"He has served as a parish councillor and school governor and has been involved with miners' welfare, youth clubs, and other local causes over the years," he said. "He has probably put in more hours for the community per week than a lot of people do in their full-time jobs."

The stipendiary magistrate Neville White said: "This is a tragedy for you and for your family, but you were elected by the residents of your ward and you used the office they had given you to steal their money by fiddling your accounts."

"People have got to be able to trust their representatives. The fact that it was only £214 is not the point. It's the fact that you betrayed the trust that is important. I'm afraid imprisonment is unavoidable."

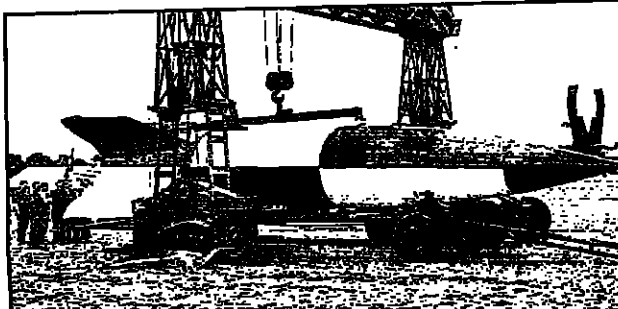
V2 sabotage plan ended in farce Allies kept dossier on the sex lives of Nazi leaders

AT THE height of Hitler's V-rocket offensive in the winter of 1944, when nearly 3,000 of the missiles were raining down on southern England, the SOE parachuted an agent into Germany to blow up the Berlin factory which produced the weapons' height and range setting controls.

But the SOE files released yesterday show the mission ended in farce and almost cost the agent his life.

Second Lt Robert Baker-Byrne, recently promoted from Sergeant, had lived in Germany before the war and was fluent in the language. Yet following his night-time drop in November 1944 he quickly found himself in trouble.

He broke his compass on landing, and his shabby disguise as a French slave-labourer working for the Nazis' Todt Organisation was totally



British scientists inspect a German V2 rocket

at variance with the smart uniforms that were still the norm in Hitler's Germany.

"He realises now that he was very lucky to survive and return safely when his uniform, papers and cover story were all inadequate," his debriefing report said.

Worse was to come. When he reached Berlin he was spotted by a plain-clothes

detective who recognised him from his time in the city before the war. The German, said to resemble a hippopotamus, began following Baker-Byrne, only for the agent to lose him at the railway station.

After that scare the Briton decided to lie low in a cinema before carrying out his attack on the plant. He emerged during the cover of an Allied

air raid, and made his way to the factory. But he was spotted by some women who raised the alarm, at which point two policemen appeared.

"Source [Baker-Byrne] could have killed the two policemen but he realised it would take at least ten minutes to pick the three locks and prepare his charges, by which time the alarm would most certainly have been raised," the debriefing note said.

By now he had decided that the job could not be done single-handedly, and made his escape. "There were some heaps of debris on the pavement, and there were plenty of people about, so he was easily able to avoid two shots which were fired after him," according to the debriefing note. He switched trams to shake off his pursuers and returned home via Switzerland.

A TITILLATING insight into the workings of the SOE's Black Propaganda Unit is revealed in the files released yesterday.

Headed "Adults Only", one file details lascivious pleasures the sexual peccadilloes of leading Nazis. The report was compiled as part of the SOE's strategy to wreak havoc behind enemy lines.

Some of it is based on little more than gossip but purports to shed light on a regime whose leaders seemingly suffered from insatiable libidos. Although little documentary proof was offered, it contains allegations which went to the very top.

Foremost was the Munich-based Nazi Party chief Christian Weber. "This old party boy from Munich is well known for his orgies," says the report.

BY JOHN CROSSLAND

There are many stories of the *fetes champetres* in the Nymphenburg Gardens where naked girls on white horses used to give spirited renderings of the Ride of the Valkyries.

Weber is credited with having been surprised at one of his festivals by a member of the Wehrmacht. "A particular attraction this time was a large roulette wheel on which a naked girl was strapped. Christian Weber, drunk as usual, was acting as croupier and set the table in motion. The audience sat at the ready round the table. The gentleman opposite the girl when the wheel stops then obliges. By the time the Wehrmacht Lt. arrived the girl was unconscious."

The report cites the case of Admiral Conrad Albrecht, a 60-year-old "whose age makes him principally a voyeur".

"His speciality is to go to low pubs in Kell where he takes up a bunch of really sex-starved U-boat men who are taken by limousine after a hearty meal with schnapps to the establishment of a Miss Freybe. Miss Freybe prefers to wear nothing but a transparent raincoat. She is reputed to be the Admiral's Mistress."

The file mentions the original Rick's Bar of the film *Casablanca* which was really the Bodega bar, frequented by Theodor Auer, the German Consul General, who conducted flagrant homosexual affairs and was thinly disguised in the film.

How long does it take to catch the Devil?

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UN probes Algerian massacres

A HIGH-LEVEL United Nations delegation arrived in Algeria last night for a two-week mission that offers the outside world its best hope yet of learning the truth about the savagery and human rights abuses committed in a six-year civil war, which has taken at least 65,000 lives.

But as the team, led by the former Portuguese president Mario Soares, arrived it was still unclear whether it would have the unfettered access it requires, above all to representatives of the Islamic insurgents the government in Algiers blames for the carnage, and to police stations and detention centres where some the regime's security forces have carried out atrocities of their own.

Last night Algeria insisted that the UN envoys would find "the conditions necessary" to do its job. But this free movement would take place "within respect of Algeria's laws", in other words, they would not be allowed to meet radical Islamists, or supporters of the radical Groupement Islamique Arme (GIA), the ferocious military wing of the movement.

The delegation should have ample opportunity to test the

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

limits of what it can do, which ought to be considerably more than the European Union mission allowed into Algeria for barely 48 hours in January, and which achieved next to nothing. The personal prestige of the group selected by the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, should aid it in its task.

Apart from Mr Soares, exiled leader of the civilian opposition to the Salazar/Caetano dictatorship, the team includes former prime ministers of India and Jordan, as well as France's ex-cabinet minister Simone Veil, a survivor of the Nazi death camps. They will meet government figures and leaders of the 10 parties represented in the Algerian parliament, and travel to villages to talk with survivors of massacres. Afterwards they will issue a public report.

The credibility of the findings will largely hinge on whether they have access to torture victims and to the detention centres where they suffered, and to the families of the "disappeared", people who vanished without trace after being taken into police custody.

And even then, Mr Soares

and his colleagues will be hard-pressed to unpick every mystery of a civil war overlaid with clan rivalries and personal feuds, studded with sinister complexities, and at times seemingly manipulated from within the ruling junta itself.

How otherwise, human rights groups, foreign diplomats and Algerian opposition figures argue, could some of the worst atrocities have been carried out within hailing distance of police or military barracks, whose personnel have not lifted a finger even as they heard the screams of the victims?

The violence has traditionally reached a climax in the holy month of Ramadan. But this summer it has continued in lesser vein on an almost daily basis. More than 90 people have been killed since 12 June, including four on Tuesday in the western city of Sig. Algerian newspapers reported yesterday.

Events were typical of a war where traditional distinction lines between civilians and armed forces have become utterly confused. The victims were members of a government-armed citizens' militia, ambushed by gunmen wearing police uniforms.



Luis Colindres protests his innocence to reporters as he leaves prison after serving 17 years for multiple rape and murder

AP

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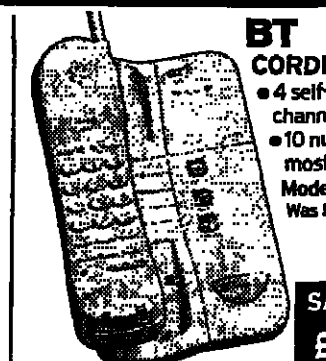
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Guardsmen who raped and killed nuns set free

TWO FORMER members of El Salvador's National Guard, who admitted raping and murdering three American nuns in 1980 but eventually said they were only following orders, have walked to freedom after being paroled.

The two had served 17 years of their 30-year prison terms, including three years' pre-trial detention, handed down in 1984. A third member of the five-man death squad was due to be released last night. The other two will stay in jail because they were convicted of additional offences.

The two men who were freed, former National Guard Sergeant Luis Colindres and Guardsman Jose Roberto Moreno, declined to comment after their release, but Sgt Colindres had revealed earlier this year that he and his men carried out the killing on the orders of their superiors.

The gruesome rape and murder of the Maryknoll Order nuns Dorothy Kazel, Maura Clark and Ita Ford - as well as

BY PHIL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

an American social worker, Jean Donovan - shocked the world in 1980.

The killings took place at the start of El Salvador's civil war, in which the United States gave strong backing to the country's armed forces in their fight against left-wing guerrillas. The National Guard was disbanded after the civil war ended in 1992.

Most Salvadorans thought the armed forces ordered the killing of the nuns as they were suspected of sympathising with the guerrillas. Many American and European missionaries certainly thought so, and confronted the country's right-wing, virtually military-run, government.

After Colindres confirmed what everyone already believed - that his senior officers ordered the killings - the nuns' families called for justice against the Salvadoran National Guard and military

officers. The families were shocked to learn that the National Guard commander of the time, Colonel Eugenio Vides Casanova, and the then Defence Minister, Jose Guillermo Garcia, were both now living in the US.

A 1993 United Nations report concluded that Vides Casanova had known early on that the Guardsmen acted on superiors' orders, but the report fell short of accusing him of giving the order. The report accused Vides Casanova and Garcia of trying to cover up the true nature of the murders. Both have denied the accusations.

"These men should certainly be called to testify under oath in front of [the US] Congress about what they know," said William Ford, the brother of one of the victims.

Despite the Guardsmen's revelation earlier this year that they acted under orders, the government of El Salvador has said it cannot reopen the case because of the country's 10-year Statute of Limitations.

UN official quits in row over aid to Iraq

A ROW over aid to Iraq has led to the resignation of the senior UN official in Baghdad in charge of humanitarian relief, who has become a vocal critic of UN sanctions.

Denis Halliday, 57, the Irish-born UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Iraq, is reported to have resigned because of differences with the UN headquarters in New York over relief for Iraq. He is said to have clashed with Benon Sevan, executive director of the UN aid programme for Iraq.

Mr Halliday made no secret of his belief that sanctions were causing untold suffering to 23 million Iraqis and should be ended. In a recent interview with *The Independent* in Baghdad he said Iraq's infrastructure was collapsing and it would take 10 to 20 years to restore it. He said the obvious response was "to lift sanctions and pump in money" and humanitarian aid was "only band-aid stuff".

Appointed last August, Mr Halliday gave a new urgency to the UN mission in Iraq. In December he criticised Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, for not asking more forcefully for improved aid programmes. He also objected

BY PATRICK COCKBURN



UN Co-ordinator Denis Halliday

cost of \$900 million every six months.

Aside from inadequate food supplies, Iraqis suffer from the collapse of their economic infrastructure. Mr Halliday said: "Electric power is 40 per cent of what it used to be." This meant that in the flat Mesopotamian plain drinking water could not be pumped, leading to an increase in infant mortality. Generating equipment is so old that spare parts are no longer available. Only \$300m was available and \$100m was needed for new power stations.

Iraqi agriculture is also short of pesticides, fertiliser and machinery. The UN Sanctions Committee would not allow in helicopters, as they could possibly be used for military purposes.

In charge of a much expanded UN relief operation in the wake of the oil-for-food agreement signed with Iraq in 1996 under Security Council Resolution 986, Mr Halliday was appalled by the poverty he discovered.

He said: "You go to schools where there are no desks. Kids sit on the floor in rooms which are very hot in summer and freezing in winter."

Asian states blame Japan for turmoil

ASIAN FOREIGN ministers meet in the Philippines this week in an atmosphere of economic crisis, political uncertainty and growing recriminations toward Japan.

Foreign ministers from the nine countries of Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations), including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, will begin formal deliberations on Friday after the region's most difficult year since the Second World War.

The worsening economic situation, the ongoing turmoil in Indonesia, the region's smog problem and the recent nuclear tests in South Asia are threatening to trigger public disagreement in a group which has always prided itself on its united, harmonious exterior.

Behind the scenes, a disagreement is brewing between Asean members and Japan over a draft statement which blames Tokyo for the region's continuing economic crisis.

In uncharacteristically impatient language, the draft urges the Japanese to carry out reforms they have promised to their financial and tax system. It bluntly states that the weakness of the Japanese yen is undermining South East Asian efforts to rebuild their economies.

Japan has become increasingly touchy about such criticisms. Asean has always operated a strict policy of "non-interference", refusing to com-

ment on the domestic affairs of other states. But the catastrophes of the last year have undermined this principle.

In large part, the point of policy was to protect authoritarian states such as Indonesia and Malaysia from criticism on human rights grounds. The events of the last year, however, have demonstrated the degree to which problems in one country can spill over into its neighbours.

Forest fires in Indonesia created choking smog, which brought human suffering and disrupted transport throughout the region. Governments in Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines were outraged, but Asean protocol made it difficult to register a frank protest.

When the repressive government of Burma was admitted as member last year, it was argued that Asean's policy of discreet engagement behind the scenes would work more effectively than the public criticism and the sanctions. But in the last year the Burmese junta in Rangoon has been just as intransigent and repressive.

This year, Asean's two most democratic members, Thailand and the Philippines, are pressing for a revision of the policy.

"Times have changed," said the meeting's chairman, Domingo Siazon, the Filipino

Foreign Secretary. "After 31 years we are now adults and we should be able to discuss our problems frankly."

Another problem is expected to crop up next Monday, when the Asean countries are joined by 10 "dialogue partners" for the Asean Regional Forum (ARF).

The membership includes China, the European Union, the United States, Russia and Japan. Another is India whose nuclear tests in May caused unease throughout the region.

Asean diplomats have spent the early part of the week arguing over how exactly to express their indignation, and in particular, whether to use the word "condemn."



Cambodians ride a moto-taxi to work in Phnom Penh. Recession is biting and hopes are high that a trouble-free election will kick-start its economy but investors from crisis-hit Asia are unlikely to help whatever happens, economists said
Patrick de Noirmont/Reuters

Interest rates go up.



Tokyo's rising star gets thumbs down

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

WITH ONE day to go before Japan's ruling party selects the next prime minister, polls indicate that the man the public wants least - the Foreign Minister, Keizo Obuchi - is most likely to take the job.

Three separate surveys published yesterday all indicated that Mr Obuchi would be elected as president of the Liberal Democratic Party tomorrow by secret ballot of its MPs and regional delegates.

Despite its humiliating defeat in elections to the upper house 11 days ago, the LDP has a majority in the lower house which will select a new prime minister at the end of the month.

The imminence of an Obuchi victory provoked selling in the stock exchange and currency markets, where he is regarded as a colourless and flaccid character who is unlikely to provide the dynamic leadership Japan needs to steer it through its economic crisis. The yen sank to more than 140 to the dollar in late trading in Tokyo, and the Nikkei stock average sank 263 points to 16,293.



Keizo Obuchi: Yen sank at news of his chances

Opinion polls show that the public rates Mr Obuchi last of the three candidates, below the reform-minded Health Minister, Jun'ichiro Koizumi, and the tough former chief cabinet secretary, Seiroku Kajiyama.

Of the 413 LDP members qualified to vote tomorrow, the polls suggested that 170 have already made up their minds to vote for Mr Obuchi, with 90 supporting Mr Koizumi and 60 for Mr Kajiyama.

If no candidate wins a majority the two leaders will go through to an immediate second ballot.

Suharto spurns \$2m retirement home

THE FORMER Indonesian president, Suharto, has asked the country's cash-strapped government to postpone its plans to build him a \$2m (£1.2m) mansion as a retirement gift, officials said yesterday.

The State Secretary, Akbar Tanjung, said Mr Suharto felt "it would be better for the government to concentrate on fixing the economic crisis rather than giving me a house."

The former leader insisted that if the government had gone ahead with the gift he would have donated the money to the poor and struggling farmers. The minister met the ex-president after controversy erupted among legislators over the retirement house plan.

Opponents of the former

president blame him for Indonesia's economic crisis and have accused him of enriching his family during more than three decades in office. Mr Akbar said Mr Suharto's successor, President BJ Habibie, "highly respected" Mr Suharto's decision.

In a further gesture towards political reform, President Habibie yesterday announced that Indonesia would establish an independent commission on violence against women, to investigate alleged rape cases during the riots in May which led to Mr Suharto's fall.

Several women's groups have said more than 160 women were raped during the protests which helped to force Mr Suharto to resign.

ANDREW MARSHALL

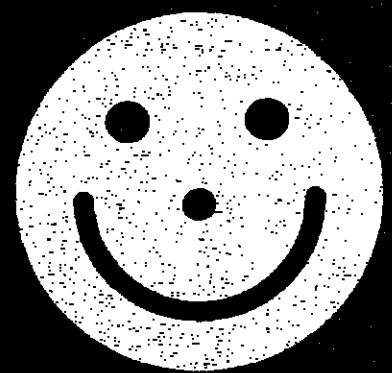
Washington is littered with bitter, frustrated people who have failed to appreciate Bill Clinton's sheer ability to survive

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

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Internet monks cry out for peace

FRONTLINE
DIARY

VISOKEI DECANI, KOSOVO

LATE AT night three sounds can be heard at the Serbian Orthodox monastery of Visoki Decani, in western Kosovo near the Albanian border: the chant of Midnight Mass, the crackle of Kalashnikovs and the screech of modems.

The church contains the bones of knights who fought at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389. Today, though, it is becoming famous as home to a new breed of warrior: the Serbian cybermonk.

In the comfortable little library filled with leather-bound ecclesiastical works, one brother explained: "It's part of our 'obedience'. One day we might be told to chop wood, the next to work in the stables, and the next to work on the computers."

Yugoslav troops and police have been fighting guerrillas of the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army for control of the area round the church. The monastery became the still eye of the hurricane. The monks tried to carry on as normal, but as the phone lines were down they were unable to connect to the rest of the world.

The chief cybermonk is the thirty-something Father Sava. Because the lines are bad, even at the best of times, he sleeps during the day to take advantage of better connections during the night.



Serbian cybermonks at Decani mix contemplation with running an Internet campaign

In recent months he has been compiling lists of journalists, politicians and diplomats, whom he bombards with e-mails calling for peace between Serb and Albanian. As a result, the monks here are not popular with the government of Slobodan Milosevic.

"Milosevic is playing a wicked game with the emotions of Serbs here," Father Sava says. He predicts that unless there is a peaceful compromise soon, the local Serbs in Kosovo, a small minority, "will pay the price for Belgrade's behaviour".

The walls that the monks' predecessors built around the church and monastery centuries ago have served them in good stead recently. But, continuing their tradition, today's monks are building Web pages.

Click through their site, and you come to a page with a yellow "NEW!" sign, similar to the ones on old-fashioned washing powder packets. It appeals to Serbs and Albanians "to re-

frain from any use of violence" and to "find a peaceful solution of the problem". A trenchant public statement declares that in "21st-century Europe there is NO place for ethnically cleansed territories, terror and crimes".

From the kitchens comes the smell of fresh bread. Lunch is simple and strictly vegetarian. "Meat increases desire," explains Father Sava. Every night the brothers, mostly young and well-educated, eat in silence while one of their number reads from the lives of the saints.

On the balcony a novice sits silently while his mother and aunt sob their eyes out. The ashtray is overflowing. It is natural to assume that they want their boy home before the monks are slaughtered by the Albanians and church put to the torch. "Oh no!" Father Sava laughs, "it always happens. It's got absolutely nothing to do with the fighting at all."

Brought up in Communism, many families find it hard to cope when their son announces he is to become a monk. It is considered a shame on the family, and they come to try and dissuade him. "My father said he'd never speak to me again," Sava says cheerfully.

Tonight, being Thursday, the monks will open up the sarcophagus of their patron saint, King Stefan Decanski, who founded the monastery before being murdered by his son in the 1330s. Then it is back to cyberspace again.

Father Sava says he has often thought of logging off to spend more time in contemplation, but duty calls. In this part of Kosovo there are only a handful of Serbs left, surrounded by tens of thousands of hostile Albanians. Some have taken refuge near the monastery. Everyone is very frightened here, but as Sava says: "For us monks it is different. We think about death every day."

TIM JU DA H

Officials try to grab cave paintings

BY ANDREW SPURRIER
in Paris

THE FRENCH state has been accused of overreaching itself in its efforts to gain control of a cave containing one of the world's biggest and most ancient collections of rock paintings.

Three senior officials of the Ministry of Culture, including the former national heritage director, have been charged with falsifying official documents in an attempt to prove that the discoverer of the cave, a civil servant, was on ministry business when he did so.

The Chauvet Cave received its name after it was discovered on 18 December 1994 by Jean-Marie Chauvet, close to the Gorges d'Ardeche. The cave contains about 300 paintings spread over 490 metres of wall in three separate chambers.

Under French law, the discoverer of an archaeological site has the right to exploit the photographs and other images of the site provided that the find is "fortuitous".

The paintings, in black and red ochre, depict a variety of animals, including woolly rhinoceroses, bears, lions, bisons, mammoths, aurochs and a panther. They have been carbon-dated at around 30,000 years, which makes them twice as old as those in the better-known Lascaux Cave in the Dordogne.

Mr Chauvet was an employee of the regional office of the Ministry of Culture. An experienced potholer, he had earlier in 1994 been given responsibility for surveillance of the numerous "decorated" caves in the Ardeche, where the find was made. He continues to carry out this work for the ministry today. He insists, however, that when he made his find he did so in his own time and was not subject to orders from the ministry.



The 300 cave paintings were discovered near the Gorge d'Ardeche (above) Robert Harding

He was engaged in a pot-holing expedition with two companions.

Whether or not he was on ministry time, senior officials at the Ministry of Culture apparently thought that he should be. According to an examining magistrate, they even went so far as to produce a false "ordre de mission", predating to four days before Mr Chauvet's discovery.

The then Rhône-Alpes regional cultural affairs director, Patrice Beghain, and the regional curator of archaeology, Jean-Pierre Dugas, have both been charged with forging official documents. The former national heritage director, Maryvonne de Saint-Pulgent, has been charged with complicity. All three are due to appear before a Lyons criminal court in the autumn.

One of the owners of the site, who is also in dispute with the state over the price of the land, claimed that the alleged forgery was part of an attempt by the state to gain total control of the cave and its exploitation.

"From the beginning, the state wanted to take over every aspect of the Chauvet Cave," said Pierre Peschier. "It tried to despoil the discoverers and the owners."

According to Christian Filatre, one of Mr Chauvet's two companions at the time of the discovery, the document which led to charges being laid against the ministry officials stipulated that he was being given a temporary archaeological exploration mission lasting from 15 December 1994 to 31 January 1995.

"They produced a forgery," he said. "We were furious."

A ministry spokeswoman said yesterday: "As long as the procedure is in progress, we will not reply. We will let the legal process follow its course." It is understood, however, that the ministry claims the false mission order, which was drafted on 3 January 1995, was produced with Mr Chauvet's consent with a view to "protecting him and reimbursing his expenses".

Italy urges Africa to stem tide of migrants

BY ANNE HANLEY
in Rome

ITALY APPEALED yesterday to North African countries to keep their nationals at home as thousands of illegal immigrants took advantage of calm seas and fine weather to make their way across the Mediterranean onto Italian shores.

The Italian interior minister, Giorgio Napolitano, reported 2,773 arrivals in the first three weeks of July. Sicily, and in particular the tiny islands of Pantelleria and Lampedusa, which are only 60 miles from Africa, have taken the brunt of this month's influx. Some 1,800 illegal immigrants were picked up there by coastguards and police, the minister said.

A further 610 immigrants were caught as they landed in the south-eastern region of Puglia, and 401 in Calabria in the south-west.

Coastguards on the mainland, affected mainly by immigration from Albania, admit that in spite of 24-hour patrols the number of clandestine who slip through is far greater

than those who are caught.

Mr Napolitano yesterday told the press that Italy's "firm stance" against illegal immigration would be backed up with economic co-operation, aimed at keeping North Africans at home.

"We have once again appealed for concrete collaboration from the governments of countries where the bulk of these immigrants hail from," the minister said.

Most of the immigrants come from Tunisia and Algeria, although coastguards have reported a growing number of refugees coming from war-torn Sierra Leone. Eight of them drowned this week when they jumped ship and attempted to swim the final metres onto a stretch of rocky coastline on Pantelleria.

The crisis on Lampedusa and Pantelleria was played down by Lampedusa's mayor.

Salvatore Martello. Desperate to limit damage to the island's main trade, tourism, he insisted that "the situation is under control". Recent pleas from local doctors who said medical supplies were running short and the possibility of epidemics was rising were "total nonsense", he said.

The sudden rise in illegal immigration follows the recent introduction of tighter laws enabling the authorities to intern immigrants in reception centres for 30 days while they ascertain their country of origin and make arrangements for forcible repatriation.

"This law is only three months old, and therefore too recent for any conclusions to be drawn," said Mr Napolitano yesterday. "What we need now is co-operation from other countries involved, both to help us identify the immigrants, most of whom arrive in this country without documents, and to arrange for them to be sent home."

First US spaceman dies

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

TRIBUTES POURED in yesterday after NASA announced the death of Alan Shepard, the first American in space. Shepard's brief flight into outer space in 1961 put the Americans back into contention in the super-power space race, just 23 days after Yuri Gagarin had put the Soviet Union in the lead with the first manned space flight.

President Bill Clinton, calling Shepard "one of our greatest astronauts," said he wanted to express "the gratitude of a nation". He said Shepard would always be remembered for the impression he made "on us and on the world". Others, including some of his fellow astronauts, described him as a national hero and an inspiration.

Shepard was one of the original group, the Mercury Seven, selected for the first US manned space programme, and the one, according to his contemporaries, most fiercely am-



Alan Shepard: Played golf on the moon

bitious to be the first in space. A former test pilot, he was chosen for the flight, aboard Freedom Seven, after explaining that he felt "the more severe challenge will occur on the first flight, and I signed up to accept that challenge".

Ten years later, as commander of the Apollo 14 mission, he became the fifth man to land on the moon, distinguishing himself by taking a golf club with him and being filmed hitting golf balls on the moon.

Archive recordings shown yesterday included contemporaries of Shepard noting that rivalry with the Soviet Union was not the only pressure on the US in advance of Shepard's Freedom Seven flight. Animal rights protesters were flooding NASA with objections to more flights using monkeys. So, the joke was told, "they chose Shepard".

Shepard died aged 74 in hospital in California on Tuesday afternoon after a short illness. His death was announced as another of the Mercury Seven, John Glenn, prepared to go into training to become the oldest American in space.

Obituary. Review page 6

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صكبات الاميل

Searching for the last Western hostage

NOT LONG before his death in 1986, French hostage Michael Seurat was allowed out of captivity.

Accompanied by an Amal official called Ali Hamdan, he was permitted to visit his Beirut home, to embrace his young wife and play with his children and to choose some books from his library to read back in captivity.

It was the last time his family was ever to see him. Alone and in misery, he died of cancer only months later, despite the efforts of an imprisoned Lebanese Jewish doctor who was himself never seen again.

I know Hamdan. Unconnected with the original kidnapping, he lives now in west Africa. I last saw him at the duty free shop at Beirut airport a few weeks ago.

Not long after Seurat's death, I met Imad Mugnieh, the kidnapper whose captives included Terry Waite and John McCarthy, Brian Keenan and Terry Anderson - the longest-held Western hostage who spent almost seven years in captivity - as well as Seurat.

Mugnieh's family still lives in Beirut. Two years ago, a bomb intended for him killed his brother - a Lebanese agent and hanged for the murder.

I later met the family of the Jewish doctor, his son convinced that his father was no longer alive, his wife Rachel still refusing to believe her husband was dead.

Waite, McCarthy, Keenan and Anderson were released. Even dead hostages returned home.

The bones of CIA agent William Buckley, tortured to death in captivity, were dug up in Beirut's southern suburbs and handed over to the Americans. US Colonel William Higgins, a UN officer hanged, so his kidnappers said, in retaliation for the Israeli abduction of a Lebanese cleric called Abdul Karim Obaid, was eventually buried at Arlington.

But Seurat, like the Jewish doctor and 17,000 other Lebanese hostages, vanished. Even today Lebanon has many secret graves.

Seurat's wife Marie, who was born in the Syrian city of Aleppo, has never maintained the silence that diplomats would have preferred.

For 12 years, she has demanded, from the French government, from the Lebanese and Syrians and Americans and British and Israelis, to know why she cannot lay flowers at her husband's tomb.

Once, long ago, Muslim militiamen took her to a grave in west Beirut and insisted that her husband's remains lay beneath.

She recalled her terrible journey in a book, *The Crows of Aleppo*. Why, she asked,

BY ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

could others kneel at a loved one's grave when she had only memories?

Belatedly after unforgivable delay, French diplomats in Beirut are trying to close this saddest and most poignant chapter in the story of Lebanon's Western hostages.

Daniel Jouanneau, the French ambassador, has been visiting Rafic Hariri, the Lebanese Prime Minister, and Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, the general secretary of Hizbollah whose Islamic Jihad satellite seized Seurat on the Beirut airport road on 22 May 1985.

Mr Hariri only became Prime Minister, and Mr Nasrallah the Hizbollah leader, long after the civil war ended.

But the French are at least trying. And yesterday afternoon a squad of Lebanese police with two bulldozers began digging for Seurat's body in waste ground, behind the headquarters of the American Life insurance building on the air-



French hostage Michel Seurat was declared dead by his abductors in March 1986

port road, ironically only a few hundred yards from the scene of Seurat's kidnapping.

If Marie Seurat had not fought so hard, they would not have bothered.

"I drank luke-warm coffees in ministerial offices," she wrote in *Nouvel Observateur* two months ago.

"I had as many compliments as promises. 'The matter is in hand, Madame.' They asked me for means of identifying [Michel] and I gave it to them. Then silence resumed... I stopped calling the president's office and ministries. They really wanted to let me know recently, at a high level, that the whole matter was 'inextricable'."

"The Israelis, the Americans have recovered the bodies of their soldiers, pilots and citizens, in far more difficult circumstances than those of a simple negotiation with a bunch of riff-raff."

Did the French think that they could ignore Marie because she was born in Syria? Or because her husband was not a diplomat? Or because the search for Michel Seurat would have opened wounds which Lebanon and Syria, both now courted by President Jacques Chirac and the French government, would prefer remained closed?

Was it, Marie Seurat asked, "because I was going to forget what is perhaps most important of all - that the body of a dead Frenchman in the service of his country has a price?"

Her campaign has been as brave as her courageous husband would have wished.

For, of all the Western hostages, Seurat was a tragic hero, unwilling to inflict his last days on his fellow captives and asking only for a room in which he could die on his own. In his own separate prison - along with his fellow hostage Tom Sutherland - Terry Anderson read the diary of the Jewish doctor who tried to save Seurat, and which was addressed to his son.

"He was kidnapped by some other group, then apparently 'borrowed' by our hosts to treat... Michael Seurat. It's an emotional, magnificently written thing that makes me almost ashamed to be reading it. But we don't stop, Tom and I, poring over the beautiful French by candlelight, late into the night. "First, the doctor says he knows Seurat is terribly ill. He's not sure from what, and bemoans his lack of instruments and ability to test, but indicates he thinks it's some form of cancer, possibly of the liver or pancreas, and probably fatal. Nothing he can do here, and no chance of getting any outside help."

Seurat's captors announced his death on 10 March 1986, releasing three photographs of his body but no indication of where it might be found.

Lebanese officials now speak of "great co-operation between all parties involved in the hostage issue", which is Levant speak for Iran, the Hizbollah, the Lebanese government, France and probably Syria.

Given the Arab desire to use France as a balance to Washington's crippled role as honest broker in the Middle East "peace process", there is reason for this co-operation. Perhaps Michel Seurat will at last go home.

But not the Jewish doctor whose name, needless to say, is largely forgotten in the West, even though his family - like Michael Seurat's - now lives in France.

He was called Elie Hallak and, like almost all the 17,000 other Lebanese hostages - again, ignored in the West - he was a truly innocent man.

His son never received the diary his father wrote for him.

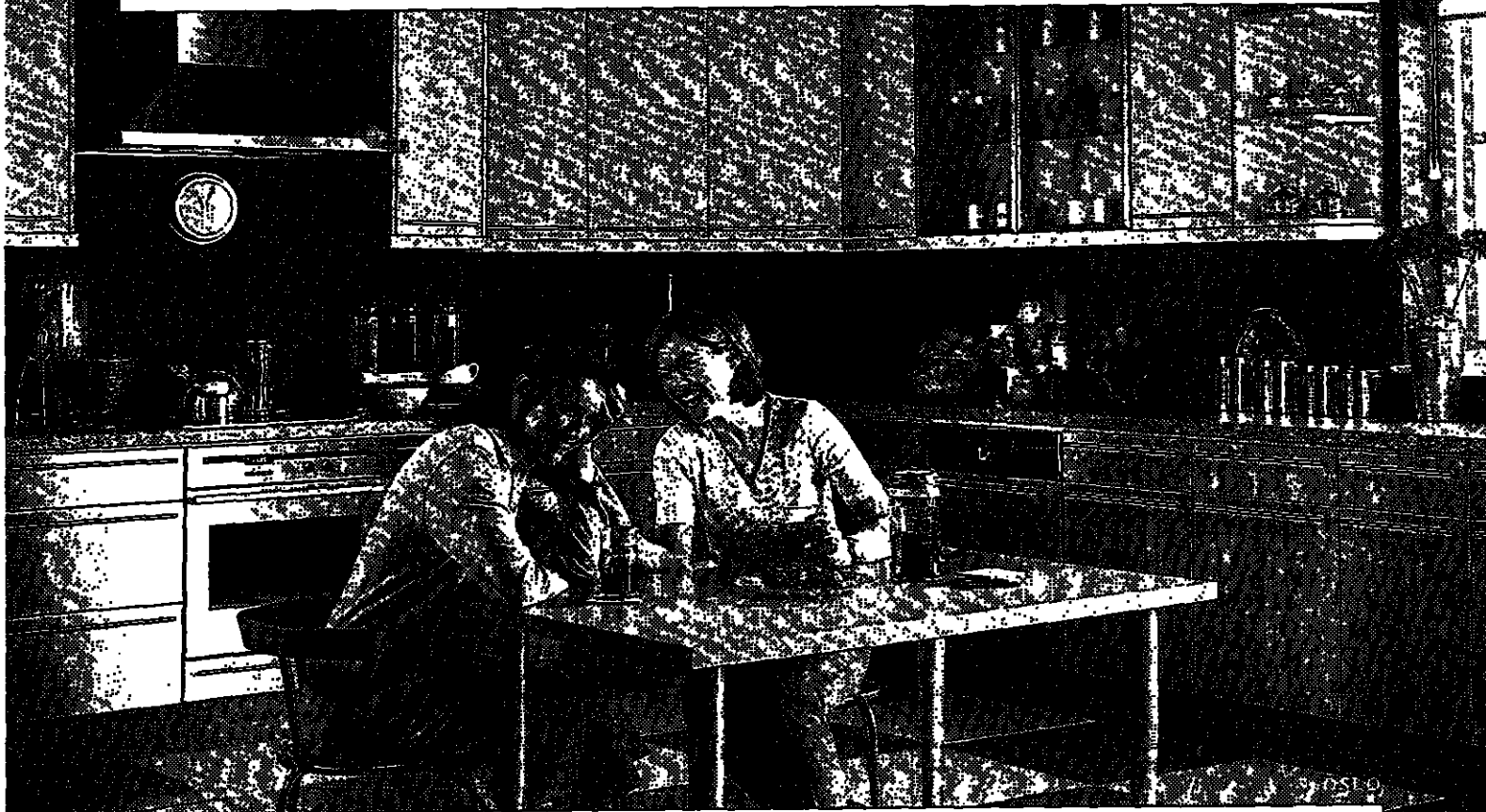


Marie Seurat displaying a picture of her husband. Yesterday two mechanical diggers guarded by 30 police excavated beside the road to Beirut's International Airport in the search for his remains

AFP

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IN BRIEF

UN staff killed in Tajikistan

FOUR UN employees from Poland, Japan, Uruguay and Tajikistan were shot dead in Tajikistan, the United Nations said. The head of UN operations in the country ordered all its personnel to return to the capital, Dushanbe. The UN has a 70-member observer patrol in the country which has lost tens of thousands of people in a civil war following the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Gore to visit Chernobyl

THE US Vice President Al Gore arrived in Ukraine for a two-day visit that will take him to the country's most infamous landmark - the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Mr Gore will hold discussions on a new international effort to raise funds to rebuild the huge shelter, which has been steadily deteriorating. So far, Ukraine has secured less than half of the \$758m needed to repair the sarcophagus.

Villagers dig in for land

MORE THAN 200 villagers invaded two commercial farms in eastern Zimbabwe on Monday and vowed to stay put until the government gives them land under its resettlement programme.

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man dies

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BUSINESS

Broker Willis Corroon falls to £851m US buyout

BRIEFING

ISA benchmarking 'misleading'

TREASURY PROPOSALS to "benchmark" its new Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) were yesterday criticised by a leading consumer group as being potentially misleading for inexperienced investors. The National Consumer Council (NCC) also said tax benefits available through the new ISA would not encourage less well-off people to save more because the relief would mean little to those who are too poor to pay tax.

The ISA, to be introduced in April 1999, will replace PEPs and TESSAs. To help consumers in their choice of ISA, the Treasury is proposing to benchmark those it judges are suitable because they are the least complicated and offer the best value. The standard will be known as a CATmark, standing for costs, accessibility and fair terms.

Competition hits Medeva profits

SHARES IN Medeva slid yesterday after competition to its biggest-selling drug sent first-half profits tumbling. Pre-tax profits dropped 20 per cent to £36.7m, worse than analysts had predicted, while sales dropped 5 per cent to £148.3m.

The market, which had been braced for bad news on Methyphenidate, which is used to treat hyperactivity, marked Medeva shares down 8.5 per cent, or 14.5p, to a five-month low of 157p.

Meanwhile, shares in Peptide Therapeutics slumped almost 23 per cent to 157.5p after it disclosed disappointing results from early trials of a new flu vaccine.

Peptide report, page 19;
Medeva, investment column, page 21

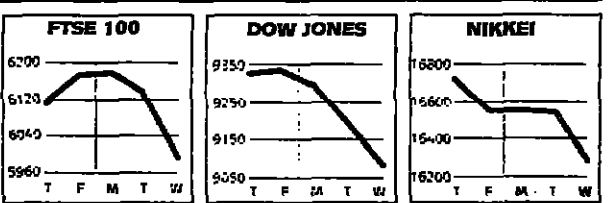
Nursing home firm raises £88m

NURSING HOME Properties is raising £88m via a placing and open offer to help fund further sale and leaseback deals.

The company has also announced plans to move up to the official list and to change its name to NHP. The placing and open offer is priced at 149p per share on a two-for-three basis.

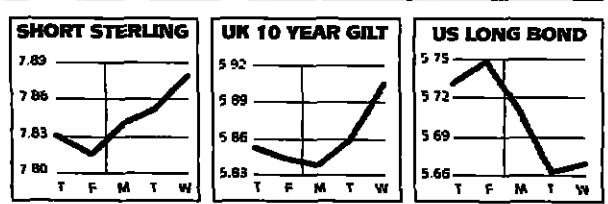
The shares closed unchanged at 160p yesterday. NHP says it has agreed sale and leaseback deals on nursing homes worth £100m.

STOCK MARKETS



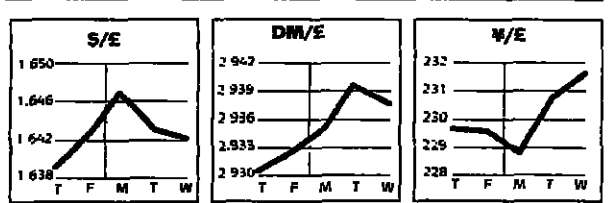
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	5989.60	-143.10	-2.32	6193.70	4382.80	3.32
FTSE 250	5659.30	-44.40	-0.78	5970.90	4428.30	2.98
FTSE 350	2882.40	-60.50	-2.09	2969.10	2141.80	3.26
FTSE All Share	2811.16	-56.65	-1.98	2886.52	2105.59	3.25
FTSE SmallCap	2570.20	-19.00	-0.73	2793.80	2182.10	3.11
FTSE Fledgling	1411.10	-8.50	-0.60	1517.10	1225.20	3.37
FTSE AIM	1103.60	3.50	0.32	1146.90	965.90	1.17
FTSE EBLIC 100	1103.32	-19.38	-1.73			
Dow Jones	9080.75	-89.34	-0.97	9367.84	6971.32	1.61
Nikkei	16283.06	-263.63	-1.59	16698.67	14488.21	0.94
Hang Seng	8420.72	-143.93	-1.69	16820.31	7351.68	4.86
Dax	6110.73	-54.79	-0.89	6217.83	3487.24	2.61

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.80	0.75	7.94	0.44	5.91	-1.10	5.52	-1.39
US	5.69	-0.06	5.81	-0.22	5.44	-0.68	5.67	-0.75
Japan	0.66	0.03	0.68	-0.13	1.72	-0.83	2.28	-0.76
Germany	3.54	0.39	3.79	0.45	4.66	-0.87	5.29	-1.01

CURRENCIES



POUND				DOLLAR			
	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago		at Spot	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6425	-0.08c	1.6732	Sterling	0.6088	+0.03p	0.5977
D-Mark	2.9366	-0.43p	3.0419	D-Mark	1.7887	-0.11p	1.8185
Yen	231.67	+0.95	193.26	Yen	141.07	+0.82	113.18
E index	105.10	+0.00	105.70	S index	112.70	+0.00	104.20

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Rpt
Brent Oil (\$)	12.09	-0.25	18.40	GDP	114.80	3.00	111.46	Aug
Gold (\$)	294.65	-0.40	325.25	RPI	163.40	3.70	157.57	Jul
Silver (\$)	5.65	0.23	4.28	Base Rates		7.50	6.75	

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5423	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.16
Austria (schillings)	19.99	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2050
Belgium (francs)	58.75	New Zealand (\$)	3.0052
Canada (\$)	2.3872	Norway (krone)	12.10
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8327	Portugal (escudos)	288.75
Denmark (krone)	10.90	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9790
Finland (markka)	8.6961	Singapore (\$)	2.6554
France (francs)	9.5406	Spain (pesetas)	240.99
Germany (marks)	2.8526	South Africa (rand)	10.04
Greece (drachmas)	470.46	Sweden (krone)	12.74
Hong Kong (\$)	12.33	Switzerland (francs)	2.4170
Ireland (pounds)	1.1300	Thailand (bahts)	60.33
India (rupees)	63.91	Turkey (liras)	425730
Israel (shekels)	5.5286	USA (\$)	1.6028
Italy (lira)	2819		
Japan (yen)	226.56		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4354		
Malta (lira)	0.6226		

WILLIS CORROON, the struggling insurance broker, yesterday bought itself an £851m reprieve from the threat of takeover in a deal that took the City by surprise.

Five insurance companies linked up with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the US investment fund, to finance a management buyout valuing Willis Corroon at 200p, a 12 per cent premium to its market price.

The deal releases Willis Corroon from a plague of speculation that has dogged it for the last three years. Earnings have sagged and its strategy has been questioned as

BY ANDREW VERITY

commissions were continually squeezed.

Marsh & McLennan and Aon, the US broking giants, were widely expected to make a bid for Willis Corroon, which has underperformed the market by around 30 per cent for the last three years. Overtures have also been made by the only other British broker of any size, Sedgwick Group. However, a clash of personalities between John Reeve, executive chairman of Willis Corroon, and Sax Riley, head of Sedgwick group is thought

to have put paid to a merger.

Guardian Royal Exchange and Royal & SunAlliance are backing the deal along with Travelers Property Casualty, Hartford Financial Services and Chubb. They will take a 19 per cent stake while KKR funds the rest.

The deal buys time for John Reeve, executive chairman of Willis Corroon, who was under increasing pressure from shareholders over his perceived failure to make an impact on the group's earnings prospects.

Mr Reeve joined the group from Sun Life over three years ago after Sun Life was largely

bought-out by Liberty Life, the South African insurer, and UAE, the French insurance group.

He has been adamantly opposed to a merger despite mounting demands in the City for him to make a bold strategic move. Discontented shareholders such as PDFM, which has held a stake of nearly 30 per cent in the group, have already committed themselves to the 200p offer, which gives them a 12 per cent premium on the shares' closing price on Tuesday of 178.5.

The offer is less than the group's value in 1993 when it peaked at 240p. But speculation

has driven shares up since the beginning of July.

Willis Corroon said yesterday that a big reason for the deal was to escape the demands of the City. "There's been a lot of speculation regarding the stability of ownership. It's made operating quite difficult," said a spokesman.

The group has also been hit by criticism from commercial customers over "commission overrides" - extra payments from insurance companies in exchange for bringing in greater volumes of business.

Some customers have alleged this created a conflict of

interest in an insurance broker when it decides which insurance company to use.

Industry observers were yesterday doubtful the deal would help to turn the business around. Peter Mynors, of Coopers & Lybrand's insurance practice, said: "The deal doesn't, I think, solve the basic problem of where Willis Corroon is going."

The deal makes Sedgwick Group, Willis Corroon's arch-rival, much more vulnerable to a bid from the US insurance giants, whose options for acquisitions are now running out.

Outlook, page 17



The sports retail sector, which has fallen from favour in the City this year, could see further consolidation

Sports retailers tee up merger

BRITAIN'S FRAGILE sports retailing market could soon be dominated by a new force after JJB Sports revealed it is in talks with Sports Division that could lead to a merger.

Shares in JJB Sports surged 54p to 533.5p on the news as the market warmed to the powerful position the combined company would enjoy. A further announcement is expected in the next few days.

A deal would create a retail powerhouse worth around £800m with more than 540 stores and a market share way in excess of its nearest competitor.

Sports Division, which abandoned plans for a £350m float

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

earlier this year, is the largest in the sector while JJB ranks second. Together they would command almost 15 per cent of the market. This is three times the share of the next competitor, the independently controlled All Sports chain, and may alert the competition authorities.

However, some analysts said the merger was far from a done deal as important questions such as boardroom structure have yet to be resolved. Nick Bubb at SG Securities said: "I would give it a 60 per cent chance. There would be a

question as to who would run it. Dave Whelan [of JJB] or Tom Hunter [of Sports Division]. If Glaxo-SmithKline foundered on management issues, so could this one."

It is not yet clear which trading name the combined entity would use if the deal went through. It is also not yet clear if it would be a nil premium merger or a takeover by JJB of Sports Division. A deal is likely to include the sale of the 13 per cent stake in Sports Division held by Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur who brokered the Olympus deal between Sears and Sports Division.

Clive Vaughan of Verdict, the retail consultants, said: "JJB is the best retailer as far as systems. Sports Division has the best sites after the deal to buy Olympus. It would make a very strong combination."

A deal could signal further consolidation in a sector that has fallen from favour in the City this year due to concerns over falling demand, over-capacity and rapid expansion plans. A merger would place pressure on the other big chains such as All Sports and First Sport, part of the Blacks Leisure group. But the biggest losers are likely to be the smaller, independent retailers which still account for two thirds of the market.

PowerGen ready to sell more stations

POWERGEN indicated yesterday that it was ready to sell off more power stations to get regulatory clearance for its takeover of East Midlands Electricity as the £1.9bn deal was overwhelmingly approved by shareholders.

Ed Wallis, PowerGen chairman, said the company could dispose of up to 3 million megawatts of coal-fired power station capacity. PowerGen is now set to complete the purchase of East Midlands Elec-

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

tricity from its US parent, Dominion Resources, early next week after yesterday's extraordinary meeting approved the deal by 196 million votes to 12 million.

Mr Wallis told shareholders that after selling excess coal-fired stations, PowerGen's share of the UK electricity market would fall from just under 30 per cent to 15 per cent and the share of gas-fired stations

in PowerGen's capacity would rise from 30 per cent to almost 50 per cent, which implied a cut in coal-fired capacity from 9 million MW to not much more than the present 5 million MW of gas and oil-fired capacity.

Mr Wallis said this was a good time to sell power stations and a number of niche players were anxious to buy into the electricity market. But PowerGen might also look at buying a second electricity distribution company to bring its share of the distribution

market up to equal its share of generation.

He said PowerGen was confident of winning approval from the electricity regulator, the Office of Fair Trading and the Government. He defended the purchase price, which will give Dominion a profit of £170m in less than two years. The purchase would achieve considerable savings in costs and be earnings-enhancing in the first year after exceptional costs, Mr Wallis told shareholders.

Official figures on UK retail sales confirmed that, as had been predicted by industry surveys, June was a particularly poor month for retailers. Retail sales volume fell by 1.1 per cent in June, bringing the annual growth rate to 2.3 per cent, down from a revised figure of 4.5 per cent in May.

Although the data was slightly weaker than expected, economists said the figures were unlikely to have much impact on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which next meets in early August.

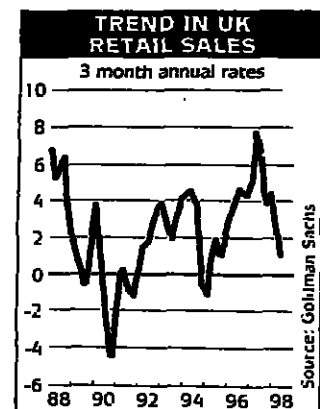
Ken Wattret at Paribas said: "If the bulk of the MPC members are genuinely concerned about earnings growth, and

ABN Amro commented: "Thanks to windfall-related spending peaking at this time last year - last June saw a 2.9 per cent month-on-month jump on the high street - the year-on-year rate has collapsed."

New research from Flemings confirmed that windfall pay-outs would have only a small impact on expenditure in 1998.

A survey of more than 2,000 adults carried out for Flemings by BMRB found that although consumers were still holding onto around 60 per cent of free "windfall" shares they received last year, only a minority intended to sell the shares by the end of the year.

Separately, the Engineering Employers' Federation said pay settlements in the engineering industry had fallen for the third consecutive month.



AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE FTSE 100 took its biggest tumble in three months yesterday, as concerns over domestic earnings and bearish comments from US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan combined to depress sentiment.

The blue-chip index closed down 143.1 points at 5,989.6, its lowest level of the day. The 2.3 per cent slide brought the index below the important 6,000 level. The second liners fared slightly better, with the FTSE 250 down 44.4 to 5,659.3 and the small cap down 19 to 2,570.2.

Market Report, page 21

NEW YORK

US SHARES were sharply weaker, with technology stocks leading the losses after Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said corrections were inevitable. The Dow, already weakened, turned further south as investors heard the comments.

The Dow Jones fell more than 110 points, or 1.20 per cent, to 9,078 at midday. The Standard & Poor's 500 was also knocked lower: the index fell 9.79 points or 0.84 per cent. Many had hoped Mr Greenspan's comments would be more optimistic.

TOKYO

STOCKS closed lower after Tuesday's slide in New York tempted investors to lock in profits made on Japanese global blue chips, traders said.

Concern that the policies of Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi, the front-runner in the race to become Japan's next prime minister, might be too timid to right the country's economy also weighed on shares. The Nikkei fell 263.63 points, or 1.59 per cent, to 16,293.06. "We're seeing a lot of profit-taking in blue-chips," said a trader. "It's all the big international names."

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN shares fell sharply as profit takers reaped the benefit of new IMF funds as well as global equities gloom following comments by US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan.

The RTS stock index fell 6.6 per cent to 171.73, its largest decline since 15 June.

"It all looks pretty sad - there is a weak ruble and aggressive blue-chip selling by the speculators who bought in anticipation of an IMF decision," said Samit Yakovlev of Fleming UCB in Moscow.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN shares ignored strength in Daimler-Benz and slid lower, although traders did not feel that a serious correction was imminent.

The 30-share, blue-chip DAX index closed at 6,110.73, down 54.7 points, while the electronic Xetra DAX failed to hold the 6,100 level, ending down 103 points at 6,081. "I think we'll see it consolidate between 6,000 and 6,200, but not below 6,000," a trader said.

"There's little news influencing the market. I think we'll see sideways movement with consolidation at a relatively high level."

Nationwide two, carpetbaggers nil

NATIONWIDE HAS again seen off the pantomime horse of Michael Hardern and Andrew Muir. But thanks to the misguiding intervention of the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Helen Liddell, it looks like the carpetbaggers will be back next year to see if they can make it third time lucky.

On then, to today's more crucial vote to decide whether the society's 49 million members actually want to convert to a bank as opposed merely to having an ex-butler with a greedy eye on the board.

The improvement in the carpetbaggers' share of the vote, from 30 per cent last year to 40 per cent this time, makes it a perilously hard one to call. But if the Nationwide's members vote as they ought to, then it will see off the threat.

Technically, the carpetbaggers have not raised the necessary quorum since less than 50 per cent of the society's members have voted in the conversion ballot. But the reality is that a simple majority in favour of conversion among those who have voted will make it impossible for Nationwide to resist the stampede of bidders that will emerge.

Meanwhile, Mrs Liddell has got in a muddle, deciding that Nationwide does not deserve any more protection



OUTLOOK

because its chief executive earns too much. Members might think Brian Davis earned his £435,000 last year. But because of Mrs Liddell's inability to differentiate between a silly squabble over pay and the bigger issue of the survival of mutualism, Nationwide will probably have to go through the whole expensive process again next year, even if it escapes today.

Last chance for Willis Corroon

JOHN REEVE of Willis Corroon calls it a platform for growth. Others may interpret it as a last-ditch and high-

risk attempt to save his own skin. Britain's number-two insurance broker has been such a perennial bidder target it is surprising it has taken this long to fall into the arms of another.

The group has suffered from a familiar squeeze. Increased competition has meant reduced premium rates, lower commissions and ever thinner margins and a subsequent dash among the main players to consolidate. Willis Corroon tried to leapfrog its way out with a spot of consolidation of its own. But the merger of Willis Faber and Corroon and Black in 1990 failed to do the trick. Since then it has been a downhill slog characterised by a dismal earnings and share price performance and increasingly restive shareholders. Pension mis-selling provisions have scarcely helped sentiment.

Now, however, life will be different in the warm embrace of the legendary Wall Street buy-out specialists Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. The constant bid speculation that accompanied a public listing was unsettling for staff and unhelpful when pitching for new business. The treadmill of quarterly reporting cramped its room for manoeuvre.

How much easier it will be to invest for the future and turn the group

from a bog-standard insurance business into a provider of advice and solutions for grateful fee-paying clients now that Willis Corroon is going private.

That, at any rate, is the theory. Having examined the options - remaining public, merging or forging a strategic alliance - it is one that the executive chairman and his six fellow directors have bought into. They are cashing in their £3m stake in Willis Corroon and, along with other senior managers, buying a 15 per cent share in the bid vehicle, Trinity Acquisition for £10m.

Other shareholders will probably do likewise. Indeed the biggest, PDFM with 19 per cent, has already snapped KKR's hand off.

To provide some ballast, five insurers, led by Guardian Royal Exchange and Royal and Sun Alliance are taking a 20 per cent stake. Willis says it is not banking on an upturn in the cycle and firmer insurance rates to make life easier. But unlike its rivals, Aon, Marsh & McLennan and Sedgwick, it does not have a life business, fund management arm or employee benefits division to fall back on.

Given the size of KKR's portfolio (£91bn), an 18.51m punt on Willis is not

going to break the bank. But for Mr Reeve and Co this is the last chance saloon. Also supposing a rival bidder does not step in and spoil the party.

Takeover Panel takes its time

NEVER LET IT be said that the Takeover Panel rushes to judgement. After all, its 18 members (17 men and one token woman) are busy individuals in their own right and the matters which come before them deserve careful deliberation. Even by the Panel's glacial standards, however, it seems extraordinary that it should take 18 months in one case and over four years in another to eradicate two of the more questionable tactics used by City advisers during contested bids.

Henceforth the Takeover Code is being amended to prevent advisers to bid targets from buying shares in their client and then voting them as part of the defence. This tactic was used most controversially by BZW during the defence of Northern Electric against CalEnergy in 1996. It was roundly and rightly criticised because the interests of fee-hungry advisers

are often not synonymous with those of other investors.

The other rule change will prevent bidders who have made all-paper bids from buying out selected shareholders for cash at preferential prices. The old rules allowed an all-share bidder to snap up 10 per cent of the target for cash at the "see through" price - the theoretic (in some cases very theoretic) value of the paper on offer. From now on all shareholders will have to be offered the same cash price.

The last time this tactic was employed in a high-profile contested bid was when Enterprise Oil, advised by Warburgs, attempted to take over Lasmo and, by chance, just happened to snap up a 9 per cent stake from PDFM for cash.

In the event the bid tactics failed on each occasion. Northern fell to CalEnergy after BZW belatedly confessed to having received a £200,000 success fee from its client and the Panel decided to extend the offer period.

In the case of Enterprise/Lasmo, the defeat was all the more resounding. Warburgs failing to reach 50 per cent by a country mile, even with the PDFM stake in its back pocket.

The two events are history in more than just the literal sense, since BZW and Warburgs no longer exist in their own right. Warburgs has been swallowed twice in a Swiss roll. Meanwhile BZW, by one of those ironic little twists, is now part of CSFB, the bank that advised CalEnergy.

The fact that such tactics are comparatively rare (who can remember the last hostile all-paper bid) hardly excuses the Panel's tardiness. What is more, it has failed to use this latest exercise in good housekeeping to stop another City tactic that is long overdue for the chop. That is the "creeper provision" which allows one company with a large minority stake to take slow control of another without ever paying a takeover premium. The last bidder to exploit this was Emerson Electric of the US, which generously offered shareholders in Astec (BSR) the choice between being bought at the current market price or watching as the dividend was slashed.

On current form the Panel will get around to acting sometime next year. Meanwhile Emerson's advisers, which include Cazenove and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, might care to reflect on the hand history has dealt others in the past.

IN BRIEF

Power prices may all by a quarter

Wholesale electricity prices could drop by around 25 per cent if the present trading arrangement known as the "pool" is converted into a competitive market, according to the industrial lobby Utility Buyers Forum. "The [figure] is based on independent analysis of what ought to happen if the pool becomes a clearing house," chairman Peter Rost said. The electricity regulator's director general, Stephen Littlechild, is due to release a final report by the end of the month on changes to the pool, which buyers describe as a *de facto* pricing cartel.

Uno profit at £5m

Uno, the furniture group, shrugged off the high street woes yesterday with a 76 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £5m including the first full-year contribution from the World of Leather stores. Like-for-like sales are down by 5 per cent in current trading but this compares with a 22 per cent rise last year when sales were inflated by building society windfalls. "The market is difficult but we are performing well," said Paul Rosenblatt, Uno's chairman and chief executive.

Atkins' £120m win

WS Atkins, which provides consultancy and support services, has won a £120m contract from the Government. The contract calls for the management of nearly 1,000 Employment Service properties through to 2002 and may be extended for a further four years, the company said.

IPE open all hours

The board of the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE), the world's second-largest energy forum, voted on Tuesday to invest about £250,000 on developing out-of-hours electronic trading, funds to form alliances with other exchanges and to reorganize the trading floor to accommodate a 50 per cent increase in the size of the Brent pit, the IPE's flagship contract.

Yesterday's announcement comes amid discussions between the board of the IPE and the New York Mercantile Exchange, the world's largest exchange, to form a full-scale strategic alliance.

CWC's 1.5m users

Cable and Wireless Communications said on Wednesday that more than 1.5 million customers were now directly connected to its services. Reporting second-quarter operating statistics, CWC said telephone-line penetration rose to 25.3 per cent from 22.6 per cent with cable-television penetration up to 20.4 per cent from 19.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1997/98.

However, churn - the number of customers dropping services - rose to 23 per cent for consumer telephony and 28.6 per cent for cable TV services, the highest levels for over a year.

Reuters needs to win on-line war

News Analysis: The Internet is the latest in a series of challenges for the financial information provider

REUTERS IS one of the great British growth companies of the past 10 years. Just recently, however, the world's leading financial information provider has looked like it is in trouble.

The Asian crisis has hit sales of new terminals in the Far East - formerly one of Reuters' fastest-growing markets. The company is also having to spend a total of up to £80m to prepare its systems for the Year 2000 computer bug and the introduction of the euro.

To top it all, Reuters has been hit by allegations that it had incorporated information owned by Bloomberg, the US group that has become its closest rival in on-line information. A US Federal Grand Jury is currently collecting evidence and should decide later this year whether to start a case.

These factors were all evident in Reuters' first-half results, released yesterday. In the six months to June sales rose just 3 per cent to £1.45bn, although this was partly down to the stronger pound. Pre-tax profits actually slipped 3 per cent to £294m.

Investors seem relatively sanguine about these short-term factors: yesterday Reuters shares rose 1.5p to 632.5p in a falling market.

But in the background there is a longer-term question hanging over Reuters and its competitors. Who is going to emerge victorious in the battle to be the premier on-line financial information provider? And, more significantly, will the rise of the Internet undermine all their positions?

The battle for supremacy in the on-line information market - estimated to be worth at least £3.6bn - has been intense in the past few years. The market has concentrated around three global players: Reuters, Bloomberg and Bridge Information Systems, the latter a fast-growing group which has vaulted itself into major league by buying up Dow Jones' Teletext information service and Automatic Data

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Processing, a US supplier of equity information.

Although market share statistics are hard to come by, Reuters puts its own share of the market at 32 per cent, with Bloomberg and Bridge both on 9 per cent. These three are the only companies who can credibly offer feeds of real-time financial information, news and analytical tools to traders and bankers around the world.

"With the globalisation of the financial markets it is only the very largest data vendors who are able to continually invest in the required global communication systems and associated technology," says Stephen Kinsey, a consultant who conducts an annual survey of dealing rooms.

The problem, however, is that the dealing room market is fairly saturated. Although information providers are forever adding new features to their terminals, they have to do this to hang on to their existing market share.

The real demand for financial information is outside the dealing rooms. According to Reuters, sales to retail investors and stockbrokers and the back offices of major banks are the fastest-expanding segments of the market, growing at more than 20 per cent a year.

So the company is launching cheaper terminals to compete in those areas. Its newly-launched Reuters Plus service, offering real-time and historical information on the US market, can cost as little as \$150 (about £90) a month. (A trading floor system can cost as much as \$1,200 a month.) Reuters is also seeking to move outside the banking sphere with its Reuters Business Briefing product, which offers a database of historical information.

"They're now talking about management consultancies and government departments taking Business Briefing," says Brian Newman, an analyst with



Reuters finds itself battling with Bloomberg and Bridge for supremacy on the dealing floors of financial institutions

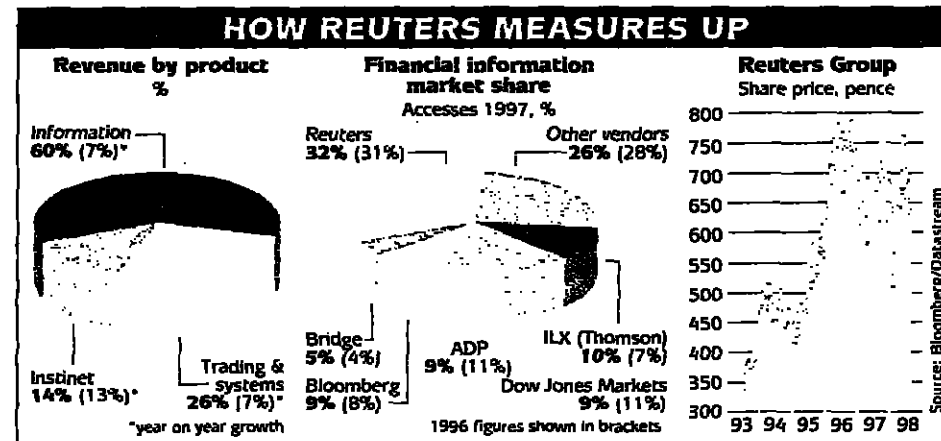
Andrew Buurman

Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker.

The question investors are increasingly asking, however, is whether the availability of cheap information on the Internet will undermine that market. The World Wide Web is littered with sites offering financial news and delayed stock quotes for free. Others, like the *Wall Street Journal*, charge \$50 a year for access to a site which offers the entire text of the US financial newspaper and access to a raft of analytical and historical information.

Clearly, these services will never be good enough for dealers who need to be informed of split-second changes in share prices. But they may well encroach in areas where the need for up-to-the-minute information is less pressing.

Reuters sees the Internet as an opportunity to distribute information more cheaply. The



company already uses Internet standards to transmit its information, albeit mostly over a private network. "People are worrying but the fact is that the Internet allows us to get broader distribution for our products," says Rob Rowley, Reuters' finance director.

The company is also keeping its finger in the pie by supplying news and prices to over 100 websites.

The worry, however, is that on-line financial data and news will increasingly become a commodity product, and that users will become increas-

ly indifferent about where their data comes from - thereby forcing down prices.

On-line information providers hope to resist the trend by adding ever more sophisticated analytical tools. "It is relatively simple to get prices, but to put together his-

torical data and economic data is more complicated," says Parn Kanadjian, managing director of Datastream/ICV, the London-based information provider which is part of PricewaterhouseCoopers. "It would cost a new entrant millions if not billions to build that up."

Nevertheless, Internet analysts are asking whether firms like Reuters can continue to be fully vertically-integrated companies producing data, distributing to users and supplying the software tools to manipulate it.

Many users admit that they would rather have access to several major sources of news and data through a single interface on their screens.

So it seems that Reuters, Bloomberg and the rest will continue to battle it out for supremacy. But whether they can convince less sophisticated customers to pay for their information remains to be seen.

Britain leads Europe in share buybacks

THE UK leads the rest of Europe in share buybacks, according to new research, at least in part because of a greater commitment to boosting shareholder value.

A study carried out by JP Morgan, the US bank, found that since 1990 about 70 per cent of all European share buyback programmes had taken place in the UK. British share buybacks between 1990 and 1998 had a combined value of more than \$30bn (£18bn), says the bank.

JP Morgan attributed the UK's leadership in buybacks to a combination of company values and shareholder pressure. The bank said: "While this [the UK's position] is undoubtedly

BY LEA PATERSON

due to UK firms' greater commitment to the shareholder value philosophy, some is also due to an element of pressure from shareholders to distribute cash, either as dividends or through repurchases."

The abolition of Advance Corporation Tax (ACT) in the UK from April next year should boost share buybacks, which will become easier to execute, JP Morgan said. The bank also predicts that share buybacks will become increasingly popular in France and Germany.

The study found that, in the right conditions, buyback schemes could significantly en-

hance shareholder value. But the bank warned that the stock market tended to react negatively if companies with relatively high levels of debt tried to buy back shares.

"Investors prefer firms to distribute excess cash when the firm has little or no debt. Conversely, when a firm is more leveraged, investors are negatively surprised by... a share repurchase as it suggests there are no more value-creating investment opportunities," the bank said.

JP Morgan found that European (including UK) share buyback volumes quadrupled since 1995, and the total value of buybacks so far this year was \$15bn.

BNFL wins \$7bn nuclear clean-up contract in US

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) won a nuclear clean-up contract from the US government worth nearly \$7bn yesterday.

BNFL said the deal consolidated its position in the US market. "It is the largest single nuclear clean-up project in the United States and probably the world," a spokesman said.

The deal underlines the British state-owned company's concerted push to increase overseas business and to ensure it is a major international player on the nuclear stage.

Graham Watts, chairman of the US subsidiary, BNFL Inc, said: "This contract strengthens the company's position in the important US clean-up market."

The \$6.9bn deal to clean up nuclear waste from the US Department of Energy's storage site at Hanford, Washington, needs to be approved by Congress. It will take 20 years to complete the work.

BNFL's presence in the US dates back to 1990 and the American unit already had a \$2.5bn order book before the deal.

The US nuclear market, with its 107 nuclear reactors, is an attractive proposition to foreign companies. BNFL said yesterday's deal was the result of lengthy negotiations built upon a long-standing relationship with the US Department of Energy.

BNFL said technological de-

velopments at its Sellafield reprocessing site in Cumbria had been critical in securing the contract, giving it an edge over possible US contenders.

The deal follows BNFL's 40 per cent role in a \$1.2bn acquisition of the Westinghouse nuclear operations from CBS. That agreement with US engineering group Morrison Knudsen almost doubled BNFL's size in one fell swoop. Turnover in 1997/1998 is estimated at £1.6bn excluding Westinghouse's turnover of around \$1.1bn.

The contract comes at an opportune time for BNFL, which is currently feeling some environmental pressure in Europe. This week, European

environment ministers are meeting to discuss agreements on maritime pollution. Nuclear discharges will be discussed at the meeting and Britain's Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, is putting forward two proposals to limit radioactive waste.

One proposal calls for zero radioactive waste discharges by 2020, and the other calls for discharges to be no more than naturally occurring, background radiation levels.

Experts say that if the zero option proposal is adopted it would be impossible for the nuclear industry to comply and nuclear power plants would have to be shut.

[illegible]

loomberg
E L E V I S I O N

Capital	304.70	306.00	-0.30	0.00	3.00	Capital Exp. Acc.	270.30	252.50	-1.80	1.80	2.00
Res	84.64	88.12	-0.24	0.00	3.00	Capital Acc	1555.40	1644.70	-15.60	2.23	5.00
	164.30	170.30	-2.30	0.37	3.00	Capital Inc	1260.90	1333.40	-12.60	2.23	5.00
Debt	127.85	181.40	-2.80	0.37	3.00	Commitment	318.60	326.30	-4.40	1.19	5.00

93.03	96.75	-1.05	0.00	3.00	Europ Dividend	129.90	136.30	-0.80	2.65X 5.00
19.16	19.97	-0.23	0.00X 3.00		Europ DividendAcc	173.10	183.00	-1.00	2.65X 5.00
Acc	19.16	19.97	-0.23	0.00X 3.00	Europ Ssn Cos	86.70	91.70	-0.50	0.00 5.00

164.20	174.40	-1.30	0.14	5.00					
128.80	136.40	-1.80	0.00	5.00					

90.76	86.13	-0.84	0.46	5.25	Parson Exempt	1527.40	1585.60	-14.60	2.70	2.00
69.83	74.26	-0.76	0.00	5.25	Recovery	63.20	66.80	-0.70	2.48x	5.00
56.91	60.69	-0.54	0.00	5.25	Recovery Acc.	113.80	120.30	-1.20	2.48x	5.00

12/11	11.33	-0.21	1.65	5.00	
12/14	82.38	-0.23	1.65	5.00	
12/18	66.36	-0.43	1.94	5.50	
103.01	109.59	-1.02	2.84	5.50	

172.60	182.50	-1.00	0.00	5.25	Cash	51.78	51.78	0.01	7.23	0.00
5.11	5.42	-0.08	0.32	5.25	Emerging Market	73.88	79.03	-0.44	0.30	6.00
631.60	670.10	-6.40	1.26	5.25	European	177.70	188.60	-0.60	0.44	5.25

19412, Dealings: 01222 603512	Mayflower					
l-and-general.co.uk	Income	682.03	725.66	-5.90	2.58	5.00
	Global Income	107.41	114.27	-1.12	2.13	5.00

49.19	49.19	-1.1	0.04	0.00	British Airways	188.00	188.00	-1.70	2.30	5.00
49.71	49.71	0.16	5.01	0.00	Cash	101.50	101.50	0.10	7.97	0.00
24.56	24.56	-0.47	0.00	0.00	Cash Acc	157.00	157.00	0.00	7.97	0.00

137.60	137.60	-1.70	0.47%	0.00	Gold & Gen Acc	121.10	129.50	-1.40	0.00	5.25
130.40	130.40	-1.10	0.96%	0.00	Genr Sees	103.70	106.90	0.00	4.54	3.00
131.80	131.80	-1.10	0.98%	0.00	Genr Portfolio Acc	108.50	115.00	-1.00	0.61%	5.00

164.00	196.40	-2.80	0.23	5.82	negative income tax	131.20	134.40	0.00	5.50	2.25
25.83	27.62	-0.43	0.94	5.82	income	285.70	282.00	-1.60	3.37	5.00
111.00	118.50	-1.30	0.35	5.82	income acc	467.40	496.30	-2.70	3.37	5.00

12/31/95	115.10	-1.70	0.00	4.50	Intl Growth	207.17	221.57	-0.55	0.00	6.00	Global Advantage	87.67	89.01	-0.40	1.20	0.00
12/31/95	113.23	-1.60	0.00	4.50	Royal London						Income Alpha	61.54	61.35	-0.20	2.74	0.00
12/31/95	140.89	-1.10	0.00	4.50	Intl Growth	360.55	374.55	-1.50	1.30	5.75	Income Alpha	50.59	50.26	-0.20	2.74	0.00

[illegible]

Barings	154.70	152.20	-1.10	1.50	5.00
B. Jones	154.40	162.00	-1.40	1.40	5.00
West World Year-End					
St. James Place NY Group Ltd					
Corporate Bond	108.90	113.50	0.10	5.00X	3.75
Pella Family	273.30	229.90	-0.20	0.20	5.00
Asia Pacific/	307.20	327.10	-3.60	2.00	5.00
Bolton	1816.40	1921.80	-19.30	2.00	5.00
Bethel Ann	9573.70	9534.00	-5.70	2.00	5.00

[illegible][illegible]

Asset	30.01	30.06	01.01	08.00	00.00	Asset	30.01	30.06	01.01	08.00	00.00
Distribuer	152.15	161.86	-0.00	1.93	6.00	Gold & Explorer	32.18	34.23	-0.33	0.00	5.50
European	115.12	122.46	-0.00	0.00	6.00	Growth	662.40	666.70	-7.80	0.39	0.00
Globalinvested value (G)	119.62	128.73	0.00	2.27	0.00	Health Income	548.40	541.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
						Value Alpha Acc	216.42	216.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
						Value Alpha Inc	110.18	110.18	0.00	0.00	0.00

Managed Acc	133.58	33.34	-6.34	0.00	0.00	S E Asia Growth	23.83	28.35	-0.32	0.91	5.50	Carroll/McGladys/Acc	56.34	60.01	-0.39	1.91	3.75
Managed Inc	304.14	233.21	-6.04	0.61	6.00	South Africa	37.05	39.41	-0.54	0.90	5.50	Managed Income	55.75	58.37	-0.25	3.29	3.75
Overall	90.62	46.55	-1.87	0.62	6.00	UK & Overseas	267.50	284.69	-2.60	0.88	5.50						

Horwath Division Test Managers	JamesGuthAcc	185.09	174.85	-2.21	0.31	5.25	UK Ability Inc CFI	56.87 (Ablt)	-0.47	1	0.10	0.80
FinancialGuthAcc	75.25	80.27	-0.80	0.17	6.25		56.87 (Ablt)	-0.47	3	1.63	7.35	
FinancialGuthInc	73.78	79.87	-6.79	0.17	6.25		UK SenGuthAcc	69.48 (Ablt)	-0.33	1.29	3.75	
CMAGrowthInc	68.98	71.87	-4.12	6.25								
							TradersGuthAcc					

[illegible]

Eurozone Govt	90.24	97.08	-1.67	3.87	5.50
Eurozone Growth	142.90	152.10	-1.10	1.00	5.50
European	566.00	605.10	-3.40	0.51	5.60
European Acc	603.60	668.20	-3.70	0.41	5.60
Japan Inc	80.78	108.37	-1.41	0.00	5.25
Taiwan Inc	97.80	104.31	-1.61	0.00	5.25
UK Equity	421.48	449.58	-4.45	1.24X	6.25
European Etc	316.75	338.97	-2.01	0.43	6.00
European Inc	316.75	338.97	-2.01	0.43	6.00
Pan Eastern	52.33	56.67	-0.87	0.56	6.00
Rand-Jones					

Parade, P: Ea	258.00	262.90	-3.60	1.12%	1.00
Lower Equities	156.50	166.70	-1.40	0.00%	5.50
Swiss Equities	154.40	160.00	-1.30	0.00%	5.50
Equity Income	185.23	162.29	-0.83	1.68%	5.25
Equity Strategy	118.40	129.21	-0.74	1.08%	5.25
Eurocom Strategies	192.41	162.29	-0.74	1.08%	5.25
UK Equity Income	476.59	507.44	-4.92	3.13%	6.00
Vanguard Direct					

NorthsideAcc	283.30	300.50	-3.90	0.00	9.90
NorthsideDebtAcc	106.70	114.70	-0.40	7.21	5.50
NorthsideOrdInv	69.95	73.89	0.27	7.21	5.50

Equity	389.00	419.80	-3.10	2.93	6.00	European	32.15	35.57	-1.12	1.38%	6.00	Int. Managed	77.25	82.25	-0.91	1.4%	0.00
Int. Equity	373.00	393.50	-4.20	0.10	6.00	182.24	189.55	-0.74	0.79	5.00	UK Stockholder	148.90	157.90	0.60	1.81	5.00	
Int. Equity Acc.	419.70	446.40	-4.80	0.10	6.00	76.50	30.49	-0.09	0.89	5.25							

European Growth	207.83	360.40	-2.42	0.00	5.25	UK Equity Growth	87.29	92.80	-0.80	2.01	5.00
European Growth Acc	338.00	361.65	-2.43	0.00	5.25	UK Equity Growth Acc	121.38	129.19	-1.10	2.01	5.00
European Growth	191.92	211.68	-1.94	1.59	5.25	UK Equity	62.08	86.25	-0.45	3.04	6.26

Rate of Growth	162.13	108.94	-8.60	3.87	5.23	130.58	128.29	-0.51	0.92	5.25
	305.58	895.49	-8.38	0.28	5.25	130.58	128.29	-0.51	0.92	5.25

Firms face pressure to take account of pension valuations

COMPANIES FACE having to report fluctuations in the value of their pension schemes and retirement benefit liabilities under proposals issued today by the Accounting Standards Board.

The plans - described as "a monumental change from present practice" by Sir David

BY ROGER TRAPP

Tweedie, the board's chairman — are bound to cause an outcry among accountants and company directors on the grounds that actuarial gains and losses tend to even out over the long term. But the board is convinced that its policy of en-

To make the proposal work, Sir David and his colleagues suggest a new form of profit and loss account. They say accounts would be easier to understand if profits or losses were split into three headings:

Though the board has consulted with other national accounting standard setters, Sir David is conscious that his group's preferred approach is

revolutionary and therefore hopes that users and preparers of accounts will contribute to the debate. He is particularly anxious to hear views on the suggested changes to the profit and loss account and hence the reporting of financial performance.

The discussion paper, which

also includes recommendations for shifting from actuarial to market valuation of pension scheme assets, follows the publication earlier this year by the International Accounting Standards Committee of a revised standard on employee benefits.

The board is also publishing today a statement of best practice on preliminary announcements and proposals for amending the financial report-

ing standard for smaller entities to take account of recent developments. It calls on companies to cover areas such as summarised balance sheets and statements of total recognised gains and losses, urging boards to make greater use of the Internet so that small investors can be put on the same

Spending 'is threat to EMU entry'

THE GOVERNMENT'S new spending plans have jeopardised the UK's chances of entering European Monetary Union (EMU) at a competitive exchange rate, according to one of the country's leading independent think tanks.

In its latest quarterly economic review, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) predicts that the recent unexpected increase in public spending will force the Bank of England to keep interest rates higher than they would otherwise have been and that, as a result, sterling's fall will be delayed.

NIESR now forecasts that the UK will go into EMU at an exchange rate of DM2.70, rather than the lower rate of DM2.60 that the institute was predicting a few months ago. According to Dr Garry Young, senior researcher at NIESR: "This rate would leave sterling significantly overvalued on EMU entry."

NIESR believes that an exchange rate of DM2.50 to the pound would represent "a sus-

BY LEA PATERSON

tainable and competitive level".

Dr Young explained that if the UK were to go into EMU at DM2.70, UK companies would not be able to compete effectively with their European rivals if domestic prices fell. He said: "This would inevitably require relatively slow growth in the UK in the early years of the next decade."

NIESR predicts that UK interest rates will go up again next month by another 0.25 points to 7.75 per cent, but believes that this figure will represent the peak of the interest-rate cycle. In its quarterly economic review, the institute says: "We expect interest rates to start falling from the beginning of next year as the absence of any sustained inflationary pressure becomes apparent."

There is a 20 per cent chance of a recession next year, according to NIESR, whose central forecast is that GDP growth will be minimal in the second half of 1998. The economic slowdown will help bring

inflation back towards the Bank of England's target, which NIESR expects will be met during 1999.

Like several other independent think tanks, NIESR is more pessimistic about the outlook for the Government's budget deficit than the Treasury. NIESR predicts that public sector net borrowing will run at more than 1 per cent of GDP over the next three years. The Treasury, by contrast, is forecasting that the Government's books will balance.

Dr Young cautioned that it was very difficult to predict the outcome of the public finances with any degree of accuracy. "Looking a year ahead, the average errors on budget deficit forecasts tend to be around £10bn," he said.

In its latest economic review NIESR also predicts that the Asian crisis could cut world trade growth by more than a third in 1998. It forecasts that the Japanese economy will contract by 1 per cent this year, prolonging the slump in the worst affected parts of Asia.



Watch out Teletubbies, here come the Jellabies. The new £2m animation series, produced by Winchester Television, will be shown on GMTV's main channel and will also help launch its digital service. Winchester shares closed up 2.5p at 72.5p

Trial setback for Peptide flu drug

SHARES IN the one-time biotech glamour stock, **Pepitide Therapeutics**, fell 49p to an all-time low of 157.5p at the close yesterday after its intra-nasal flu vaccine suffered a setback in trials and broken **Sutherland's** repeated a sell recommendation. The shares, which hit 332p last autumn, have now halved in value in the past two months.

The initial trial results showed "the formulation to be safe and well-tolerated, but the vaccine did not meet the immunogenicity criteria for efficacy which were outlined in the protocol," the company said.

The **Pepitide** chief executive **John Brown**, said the results from the trial appeared to be an anomaly and were surprising in the light of previous trials. He also said the vaccine could be reformulated if appropriate.

"The intra-nasal flu vaccine uses different technology from all our other vaccine products and therefore the results have

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

no bearing on other parts of Peptide's oral mucosal vaccine programme," he said.

The shares were floated at 200p in November 1985, raising almost £320m in new money and valuing the company at £68m. Peptide has yet to make a profit, losing £8.55m in 1987.

The company made its name by developing anti-allergy vaccines for complaints such as food allergies and hay fever. Its strategy is to develop drugs for the first stages of clinical trials and then to license them out to the bigger drugs companies to take them through to the marketing stage.

Its partners include Medeva, SmithKline Beecham and Pfizer. It is working with Pfizer to develop vaccines to treat cats and dogs for allergies to flea bites. It is also developing a potential vaccine against the E.coli food poisoning bug, but this is still in the early stage

Losers' wheels that could have A&L in a spin

I'M A big fan of Quentin Willson, the sardonic sidekick of Jeremy Clarkson on the BBC's motoring programme, *Top Gear*. However, I fear Alliance & Leicester might have scored an own goal – to mix sporting metaphors – by recruiting Mr Willson to write a "Used Car Buying Guide" for bank customers.

In the 68-page guide Mr Willson declares that "some cars will always be losers". His list of "utter sadsters" goes:

"Users of incontinence pants, drive old Volvos; mobile hairdressers buy Escort convertibles; mostly car thieves drive Escort RS Turbos; Rollers [are] for people with more money than taste; Prottons [are] rated only in Bourne-mouth suburbia; humdrum executive cars are transport for fat raps."


All of which may well be true. But how many of Alliance & Leicester's 5 million-plus customers own such cars? What if there be a Volvo drivers' backlash? Will all those Escort drivers close their accounts with A&L in protest?

A spokesman for the A&L Paul Lockstone, pooh-poohs such notions. Not surprising, suppose: Mr Lockstone himself drives a brand-new Saab ("not a company car") which Mr Willson's guide describes approvingly as "driven by folk who don't cut you up".

Unfortunately Mr Lockstone's Saab is currently "in garage having its air conditioning repaired". So what does Peter White, A&L's chief executive, drive, I ask? "I do know," Mr Lockstone replies diplomatically. A likely tale.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



ALMOST 40 per cent of people polled for the Durex Summer Sex Survey say business trips overseas are a prime time for new sexual relationships.

And 27 per cent believe business trips in the UK offer similar opportunities for "casual sexual encounters".

The 1998 NOP survey of 1,343 adults also found that the rugged mountains of Wales are the most popular places for lovers. The Principality's peaks came out on top as the most romantic spot to visit this summer, ahead of Dublin Castle, Sherwood Forest and Blackpool.

Radrian's Wall proved less popular for a spot of rumpy-pumpy, garnering limp 1 per cent of the vote.

persons building societies vote for demutualisation, to change for a stake in the company.

front bench opposite would have anything to do with them is quite a travesty." The company's plan, he said, was "asset strip and wreck mutual societies".

Sir Alan then warned Mr McNulty, saying: "You are sailing very close to the wind in your references to Mr Redwood."

Mr McNulty said it was "pity" that any MP was involved "in such disreputable business", at which Sir Alan warned him again, saying: "You must not by clear implication accuse another member of a disreputable behaviour," after which Mr McNulty withdrew his remark. However, he concluded: "If anyone in the corporate sector wants anything to do with demutualisers I'll Murray Financial, they should think twice."

NO ONE awaited yesterday's outcome of the Nationwide vote as keenly as Adrian Coles, director general of the Builders' Societies Association (BSA) - all-round defender of the mutual faith.

The BSA's own offices at 3 Savile Row, the same building in London's West End which housed the Beatles' management company Apple in the 1960s. Mr Coles, noting Paul McCartney's childhood home in Liverpool has opened up as a national monument, was relieved there were no plans for a blue plaque or like on the Savile Row building.

While the occasional gaur of Beatles fans turns up on the pavement outside, Mr Coles and his colleagues are keen to keep the BSA's offices too free - particularly the room built in 1964.

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Footsie engulfed in a wave of worries

FOOTSIE TOOK its biggest tumble in three months yesterday, tripped by a nasty combination of gloom coming from the US and domestic concerns generated by the repetition of Tuesday's comments from the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, on the upside risks to inflation and interest rates, and the slump in the Dow which followed, heightened fears that the equities markets' party may be nearing the end.

But the market had been on a downward slope before Mr Greenspan had uttered a word, with a wave of bearish feelings engulfing pharmaceuticals and banking, two of the sectors that led the recent record-breaking advance.

Not even a set of weaker-than-expected retail sales data was able to provide comfort and in the end the FTSE 100 closed at 5989.6 points, its lowest level of the day, after a 143.1

CENTRICA, the UK gas supply business spun off from British Gas last year, fell the pinch of a gloomy note from Salomon Smith Barney. The shares lost 2.75p to close at 101.75p after analyst Simon Taylor warned of the "significant downside risks". He believes Centrica's earnings will be put under pressure by a slide in the gas price of its Morecambe Bay field, while the core supply business will suffer from increasing competition or regulation.

point slide. This 2.3 per cent drop was the largest fall in three months and brought the index below the psychologically important 6,000 barrier. The second-liners fared slightly better, with the FTSE 250 down 44.4 to 5659.3 and the small cap down 19 to 2570.2.

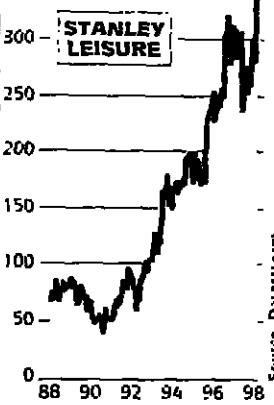
On the domestic front, pharmaceuticals looked particularly off-colour, as the bout of selling triggered yesterday by SmithKline Beecham's mun-



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

MARKET REPORT

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



dane results spread through the sector. Among the front-liners, SB led the way downwards, losing 3.56 per cent, to close 26.5p down at 718.5p. Credit Lyonnais was one of the brokers rumoured to have gone negative on the company. The relationship between SB and Glaxo Wellcome, already on tenterhooks after their failed merger saga, is unlikely to have improved much after yesterday, when Glaxo shares were dragged down in sympathy (or should it be antipathy?) with SB. They ended 65p lower at 1,800p.

Other casualties included Medeva, which topped the list of the FTSE 250 fallers, after reporting poor interim figures. The market took fright at increasing US competition for one of the company's star drugs and pushed the shares down 11.3 per cent to 152p. Peptide Therapeutics was

the next one on the sick list, losing an unhealthy 23.7 per cent to end 49p lower at 157.5p on the news that its intra-nasal flu vaccine had proved to be ineffective in preliminary trials.

The only bright spot in the sector was Alysine, a small biotechnology company, which put on 12.86 per cent to close 4.5p higher at 39.5p after announcing a deal with SB to develop its anti-irritable bowel syndrome treatment.

Perhaps Alysine could deliver some packets of the drug to Misy's management, who must be feeling under pressure after their computer company shed another 7 per cent, after Tuesday's 4 per cent slide, to close 236p lower at 3,101p. The market is clearly nervous about next week's results amid fears that some IT stocks have been overbought.

Talking about nervousness on earnings prospects, banks yesterday had an awful day, with dealers starting to feel the traditional pre-reporting season jitters. Lloyds TSB was down 50p to 871p, closely followed by Woolwich, which lost 5p to finish at 326p. Halifax, also on next week's results roster, was down 30p to 755p.

HSBC Holdings lost 42p to close at 1631p, as mystery continued to surround the intentions of Martin Ebor, the Swiss corporate raider who masterminded the UBS-SBC merger. Yesterday he revealed that he was looking to increase "significantly" his 0.4 per cent stake, with dealers speculating he could go as high as 5 per cent.

In a day when red was the colour on trading floor's screens, the few spots of blue came from companies buoyed by bid talks. JJB Sports topped the list of FTSE 250 risers, putting on 11.2 per cent to close 54p higher at 533.5p after it revealed it was in merger talks with a rival sports retailer, the privately owned Sports Division.

Willis Corroon shot up 10.6 per cent to 197.5p, after the troubled insurance broker agreed to an £851m takeover by a group of UK and US insurers.

Arch-rival Sedgwick, which will become the dominant UK independent broker after the deal, put on 9.33 per cent, or 12.5p, to close at 146.5p.

WS Atkins, the facilities management group, hit an all-time high of 604.5p, after rising 30p on the news it had won a £120m contract to look after 1,000 buildings owned by the Employment Service.

Among the front-liners, an upbeat agm statement helped Scottish Power, the utility group, to post a 2p advance to 582p, one of only seven blue chips to rise yesterday.

Reuters, the information provider, was another riser in the FTSE 100, putting on 1.5p to 632p, despite a slide in interim profits and a warning of tough times ahead. EMI, the music group, firmed 5p to 517p, as the periodical rumours that it might be taken over by a US rival resurfaced. BOC rose 7p to 860, after Salomon described

BANTER Communications, the exhibitions organiser planning a listing on the Ofex market, has postponed the close of its share offering from Friday to August 7. So far the company has raised £250,000 of the £540,000 it hopes to make, and the management hopes the extra fortnight will help to make up the shortfall. Exhibitions in the pipeline include "The Well Informed Woman", a showcase for the single woman of the 1990s.

the chemical group's stock as the "cheapest in the sector".

Stanley Leisure, the bookies chain, hit a jackpot yesterday, as an increase in the numbers of fruit machines in its betting shops led to a 23 per cent increase in profits and pushed the shares 16p higher to an all-time peak of 341p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 532.5m
SEAQ TRADING: 57,605
GILTS INDEX: n/a

Medeva loses its way without a blockbuster

MEDEVA is a tale of two drug companies. The first is a former blockbuster which, now its patents have expired, is in terminal decline. The other is a brace of new products which, for all their promise, remain a mystery.

Dr Bill Bogie, Medeva's chief executive, would like investors to concentrate on the latter. But they stubbornly focus on the former.

So when Medeva yesterday reported that sales of methylphenidate, which is used to treat hyperactive children, had fallen by 32 per cent in the first half of the year, its shares promptly shed 8 per cent of their value.

Not that the fall was unexpected. The drug is now off-patent and competitors are entering the market. Instead, investors were surprised by how sharply sales had dropped. Medeva now has a 58 per cent share of the market. In the long run, it can probably hope for no more than a quarter - and that at much lower prices.

So what about the other drugs? They contributed profits of £24m (before research and development costs) on sales of £108m - a sharp increase on previous years. But while the portfolio includes strongly performing drugs such as the Tussionex cough prescription and Fluvirin flu vaccine, there are no blockbusters among them.

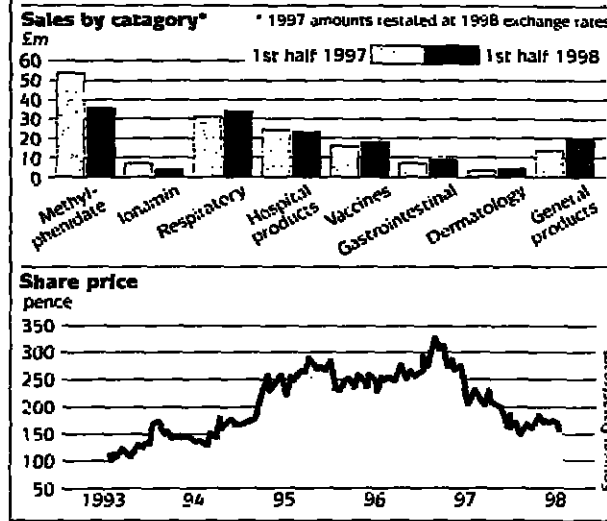
After the failure of its Isonamin anti-obesity drug, Medeva's best hope is Hepagene, which is currently in trials as a treatment for hepatitis B.

Which makes valuing Medeva tricky. Future cash flows from methylphenidate are probably worth £100m at best. The remaining drugs, which will grow steadily if unspectacularly, are probably worth another £300m.

Factor in debt of £72m and the implied value of Medeva's product pipeline is over £200m. With Hepagene still in trials, that figure looks demanding. Another share buy-back may help but the shares, down 19.5p to 152p yesterday, are high enough.

INVESTMENT
EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

MEDEVA: AT A GLANCE					
Market value: £557m, share price: 152p (-19.5p)					
Full year to 31 Dec 1997, half year to 30 June 1998					
Trading record	1995	1996	1997	1998	1998
Turnover (£m)	256.00	332.00	355.00	159.00	148.00
Pre-tax profits (£m)	79.00	38.30	110.90	45.60	36.70
Earnings per share (p)	16.90	3.10	21.40	8.50	7.20
Dividends per share (p)	3.97	4.80	5.50	1.90	2.00



Double woe for Allied Textiles

THE TEXTILE sector has been savaged by a double whammy. On the one hand the soaring pound has hit its exports. On the other, demand at home has weakened due to higher interest rates and faltering consumer confidence.

Allied Textiles has been just one of many victims. Its shares, which have halved in 18 months, enjoyed a jump at the start of the year when a venture capital group made a takeover approach.

But the bidders have walked away and yesterday's 17p dip in the price to 99.5 after the company said it may not hit second-half forecasts has made Allied Textiles look even more vulnerable.

However, another approach seems inevitable before long as the business is dirt cheap by any yardstick and is one of the better performing companies in

the sector. Allied's natural fibres business, which makes fabric for women's clothing, has been hit by the strong pound. But the other businesses have performed well.

Synthetic fibres, which makes fabric for ski clothing and hot air balloons, held profits steady. And the carpet-making business boosted profits by an incredible 20 per cent.

Allied's half-year profits edged up to £4.4m, it has £10m in the bank and property disposals will net a further £20m-£30m with the funds likely to be returned to shareholders. All this for a company that is valued at just £70m.

A venture capital group could buy Allied Textiles and get its money back in two or three years. John Corrin, chief executive, says that if he was 10 years younger he would take the company private but, at 60 next month, he seems reluctant.

On Warburg Dillon Read's

forecast of £14.5m before exceptional, the shares trade on a forward multiple of just seven. Negative sentiment will hamper progress in the short term but on pure value considerations the shares are a buy.

Stanley Leisure looks a good bet

BETTING was on a roll even before the World Cup at bookies Stanley Leisure. In the 53 weeks to the beginning of May turnover was up 12 per cent while profits rose 23 per cent to £23.9m, despite Stanley setting aside £500,000 for its Scottish casino properties which are having a hard time.

Actual bets made rose 5 per cent, but turnover was up 11.9 per cent and profits up 37 per cent. The casino division had a stickier time, with attendances rising 4.5 per cent, and operating profits were static at £11m after allowing for the property costs.

However, most of the casinos are in provincial locations not normally favoured by foreign high-rollers, whose spending power has been hit by the Asian crisis. The changes in betting duty announced in the Budget will also have relatively little effect, and Stanley says the current year is off to a good start.

Recession would do the business no good but further deregulation is good news. Increases in the minimum stakes and prize money for casino betting machines and a more modest increase in maximum prizes from fruit machines take effect from October. In the next two years more provincial towns could be opened up to casinos.

What Stanley really needs, however, is the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to force Ladbroke to sell off some of the Coral betting shops - giving Stanley an opportunity to expand its chain.

Profit forecasts for the current year are around £27.3m. On a forward multiple of about 20 the shares, which rose 16p to 341p yesterday, look fair value.

COMPANY RESULTS					
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day
Arts & Leisure Group (N)	7.16m (0.31m)	0.437m (0.259m)	0.95p (5.00p)	-	30.09.98
Allied Textiles Co (I)	109.70m (116.91m)	4.77m (4.71m)	4.84p (4.46p)	2.85p (2.75p)	01.09.98
Amplifier Leisure (F)	10.4m (9.8m)	1.07m (0.83m)	9.2p (14.5p)	1.75p (1.1p)	01.09.98
Medeva (I)	148.3m (155.4m)	26.7m (45.8m)	7.2p (8.5p)	2.0p (1.5p)	12.10.98
Reckitt (I)	1.45m (1.41m)	294.0m (303.0m)	13.3p (12.3p)	3.4p (3.1p)	08.09.98
Stanley Leisure (F)	454.90m (406.78m)	23.92m (19.44m)	14.8p (11.7p)	4.5p (4.0p)	27.09.98
WFO (F)	96.06m (41.13m)	4.53m (0.86m)	18.0p (2.00p)	6.9p (4.9p)	08.09.98
WFO Electrical (F)	130.49m (113.33m)	8.75m (6.65m)	41.9p (31.1p)	17.7p (15.0p)	20.09.98

(F) - Full (I) - Interim (N) - Nine Month EPS is pre-exceptional. Dividend to be paid as a FD

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES					
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Long Gilt	Sep-98	108.04	108.55	107.93	108.17
5 Yr Gilt	Sep-98	102.79	102.79	102.79	102.79
German Bund	Sep-98	109.06	109.29	108.99	109.06
Italian Bond	Sep-98	120.99	121.25	120.93	120.99
Japan Govt Bd	Sep-98	132.27	132.30	132.16	132.10
3 Mth Sterling	Sep-98	91.13	91.16	91.13	91.13
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	92.17	92.23	92.15	92.17
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.42	96.43	96.42	96.42
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.38	96.38	96.37	96.37
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.56	95.59	95.56	95.56
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.07	96.10	96.06	96.06
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.23	95.23	95.23	95.23
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	97.84	97.84	97.84	97.84
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	97.65	97.67	97.62	97.62
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.89	95.89	95.89	95.89

Settlement Price 5989.60

LIFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION					
Series	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call
5500	198.27	20.63	198.27	20.63	198.27
5550	168.21	12.21	249.17	308.21	369.24
5600	138.20	14.01	218.19	280.23	341.28
6050	112.20	16.51	186.21	253.27	313.29

ENERGY AT 5:30PM					
Brent Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	Product (\$/barrel)	Product (\$/barrel)	Product (\$/barrel)	Product (\$/barrel)
19.25	18.25	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
19.25	18.25	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
19.25	18.25	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
19.25	18.25	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
19.25	18.25	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES						
	BASE DATE	LAST	CHG	%CHG	31 DEC	%CHG
Index	1970=100	146.10	-1.03	-0.70	215.26	-32.13
Agricultural	1970=100	189.18	-1.86	-0.97	231.23	-18.19
Energy	1983=100	50.18	-0.47	-0.93	85.86	-41.56
Metals	1977=100	143.41	0.00	0.00	168.79	-15.04
Stocks	1970=100	154.55	0.02	0.01	191.03	-19.10
Pre-Metals	1970=100	399.27	0.86	0.22	463.54	-13.87

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Sterling					
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Australia	1.0000	2.6374	2.6289	0.6088	0.6098
Canada	0.6711	20.634	20.554	1.6081	1.6081
France	60.384	60.383	60.113	36.885	36.822
Germany	2.4555	2.4501	2.4394	1.4849	1.4941
Italy	51.361	51.361	51.361	6.8141	6.8056
Japan	148.84	148.84	148.84	1.1036	1.1049
Netherlands	8.9278	8.9278	8.9278	4.4355	4.4355
Spain	166.91	166.91	166.91	5.9971	5.9865
Sweden	2.9379	2.9379	2.9379	1.7881	1.7881
Switzerland	12.12	12.12	12.12	7.7454	7.7454
UK	1.1698	1.1698	1.1698	1.4031	1.4031
US	2.8984	2.8984	2.8984	1.7645	1.7645
Other	1.3178	1.3178	1.3178	1.4115	1.4115
Malaysia	6.8127	6.8127	6.8127	4.1478	4.1478
Mexico	14.256	14.256	14.256	2.0123	2.0106
Netherlands	3.1318	3.1318	3.1318	1.9186	1.9170
New Zealand	3.1326	3.1326	3.1326	7.5609	7.5609
Norway	12.419	12.419	12.419	182.68	182.19
Portugal	200.37	200.37	200.37	3.7574	3.7566
Saudi Arabia	6.1602	6.1602	6.1602	1.7093	1.7093
Singapore	2.8086	2.8086	2.8086	6.2323	6.2323
South Africa	10.2496	10.2496	10.2496	151.84	151.84
Spain	149.40	149.40	149.40	7.9481	7.9481
Sweden	13.095	13.095	13.095	1.5107	1.5107
Switzerland	2.4813	2.4813	2.4813	1.5107	1.5107
US	1.6425	1.6425	1.6425	0.3823	0.3823

OTHER SPOT RATES

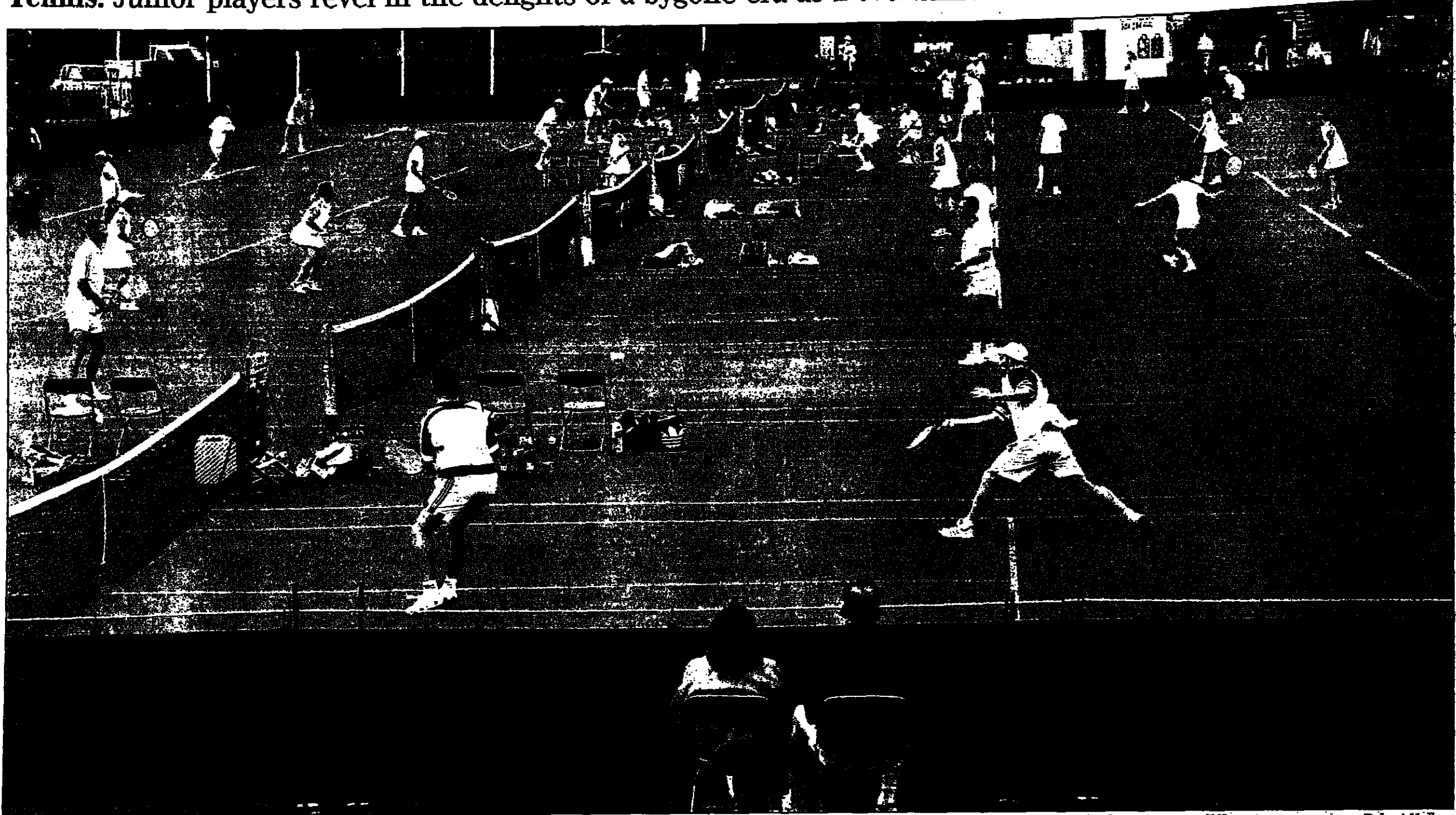
Sterling					
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Argentina	1.6425	1.6425	1.6425	0.3823	0.3823
Brazil	1.9061	1.9061	1.9061	47.500	47.500
Canada	13.599	13.599	13.599	69.067	69.067
Czech Rep	51.361	51.361	51.361	5.6321	5.6321
Egypt	5.9975	5.9975	5.9975	5.9789	5.9789
Ghana	3835.2	3835.2	3835.2	62.21.0	62.21.0
India	356.09	356.09	356.09	2118.8	2118.8
Indonesia	23559.9	23559.9	23559.9	56.351	56.351
Israel	69.691	69.691	69.691	41.090	41.090
Kenya	0.5039	0.5039	0.5039	47.490	47.490
Nigeria	140.43	140.43	140.43	4.0321	4.0321

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME (\$/tonne)					
Cash	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	15 month
Aluminium	1345.5	1346.5	0.50	1369.5	1370
Aluminium HG	1325	1325	10.00	1320	1325
Copper A	1693.5	1694.5	-5.50	1715	1716
Lead	532	533	-3.00	533	534
Nickel	4600	4605	-5.00	4660	4665
Tin	5595	5600	-5.00	5475	5485
Zinc	1042.5	1043.5	2.00	1066	1067

SPORT

Tennis: Junior players revel in the delights of a bygone era as Devonshire Park welcomes a new generation



Competition in the Lawn Tennis Association's Inter-County Cup was as intense as ever at Devonshire Park yesterday. A total of 800 players from 44 counties take part in the event at 13 different venues

Robert Hallam

Corinthian spirit celebrated in style

IT IS just possible that Sally Jones has done more to attract young people to tennis this week than all the money spent on promoting the game.

A journalist, television presenter and poacher-turned-gamekeeper in her role as the non-playing captain of the Warwickshire women's team, title holders at the Lawn Tennis Association Inter-County Cup at Devonshire Park in Eastbourne, Jones has shown how much fun can be had on the court and off it.

Moreover, she has achieved this by telling all, or at least some of it, in an article for the official publication of the LTA.

Her feature in the latest edition of *British Tennis* is the sequel to a light-hearted magazine piece Jones wrote 20 years ago, which touched on "the behind-the-scenes shenanigans" during County Week, when she was a relative newcomer to the Warwickshire team.

County officials of the time were not amused, Jones recalls. "Most reprehensible, apparently, were the allusions to our nightly cocktail parties at the Grand Hotel, at which most of the side, including several 'promising juniors' sampled extraordinary mixtures of dubious pedigree - brandy and orange, Campari and coke, Martini and pep (ugh!) - before our captain realised the need to put on a suitably sober face for the benefit of the next day's opponents."

Officials from other counties took offence at "a coded reference to the way the bulk of the nocturnal activity was confined to the older generation, who, I wrote, rediscovered lost

As players have appreciated since 1895, County Week's frantic camaraderie sustains traditional values. By John Roberts

loves with varying degrees of discretion while the teams noted these goings-on half-gleefully and half-shocked, with adolescent prudery. And, "Why, they're nearly 50", as if Methuselah had been caught in flagrante delicto."

Time has moved on. "I am now part of the officialdom I once ridiculed," Jones says, "painfully aware of my responsibilities in loco parentis to the current generation of 'promising juniors', busy patrolling the corridors of the Grand Hotel after 10pm in battleaxe mode to discover who has popped out to the off-licence for a few tinnies of Diamond White, or whether any of our giggly teenagers has decided to sneak off for a quiet tryst with some older married tennis coach."

Of course, County Week is not all hard work. There is tennis, too. Levy aside, the tournament does allow the sport to breathe once a year in an environment which is charming in its contrast to the run-of-the-mill professional tour events.

The 30th anniversary of open tennis has been marked in various ways in a variety of places. County Week pays homage to yesteryear, pre-1968. It is tennis for its own sake, with 800 players from 44 counties competing in 13 venues, ranging from Eastbourne to Bude. Professionals become amateurs again. The reward for a schedule of three fiercely contested doubles matches

per day amounts to pride in the endeavour, win or lose.

"Elsewhere," mused Austin Smith, an LTA vice-president and chairman of the Veterans' Association of Great Britain, "it seems to me players are almost beaten before they start. But here it's the opposite. The adrenalin flows and you get the impression that they would die for their team. They throw themselves at the ball like dear old Becker."

At first glance, the constant action on the 18 courts resembles a battery hens' outing. The four players in each of the matches scurry about deciding points with enthusiastic shots and arbitration. There are no umpires, no line judges, no ball-boys; and when it comes to changeovers, competitors are encouraged to towel down briskly and play on.

Some choice self-critical language is expressed, and there are conflicts. A referee is on hand should disputes fail to be resolved by the players themselves. Eyes are on the ball, but concentration slips occasionally when it comes to changing the scoreboard, another DIY operation. Such was the confusion during Warwickshire women's opening rubber against South Wales that the players were unable to agree whether they were still in the first set or into a second. They could not even remember how many times each player had served.

So intense is the competition

that a group of players continued swinging their graphite rackets in the face of forked lightning, conditioned into waiting for the rain to drive them off the court. The Corinthian spirit lives, albeit dangerously.

In his book *Sporting Gentlemen*, which traces men's tennis from the "age of honour to the cult of the superstar", E Digby Baltzell is less than enamoured with current trends. The American professor of history and sociology concludes: "The trouble with tennis largely lies in the radical change from a provincial amateur game dominated by the ideals of an Anglo-American upper class and its British Commonwealth counterparts to a new world tennis game, with no common sporting ideals, held together by the common pursuit of money."

Almost from the beginning, especially since the age of McEnroe and Connors, [professional] tennis has remained at the dead level of a business.

As the professor acknowledges, there is no going back, and although some would sympathise with many of his views, few would want a return to the days when sham amateurism reigned and the image of the sport was a "living lie", as the late Herman David termed it when he was chairman of the All England Club.

We must simply rejoice in the preservation of nostalgic cameos

such as those being enacted with such vigour this week. The Inter-County Cup has been described as an anachronism and a total irrelevance to the modern game. That, if true, ought to be regarded as a virtue.

A number of locations have been cited as cradles of the sport since it spilled on to the lawns from the courts of royalty. The Manor House Hotel, at Leamington Spa, boasted the world's first tennis club in 1872. Two years later, Major Walter Clifton Wingfield, a retired cavalry officer, patented box sets of *Sphairistikè* (the Greek for "ball game") at five guineas a time, after experimenting on the lawn beside his home, Rhysant Hall, in Llandysilio, Montgomeryshire.

Devonshire Park has played a significant part in the development of the sport. It was here, for example, where a holidaying Fred Perry was inspired to take up the sport, where Martina Navratilova fine-tuned her serve and volley for Wimbledon triumph, and where, last month, Jana Novotna won her first grass court singles title (en route to winning her second, at Wimbledon).

County Week was started in 1895 with 21 teams (men only, the women's event commencing four years later), including Wales, Scotland, Oxford University and Cambridge University. The teams were divided into four regional groups playing a knockout competition, which later evolved into a round-robin format.

Although Devonshire Park has played host to the men and women



Sally Jones offers encouragement to her Warwickshire team

in Group One since 1953, the spirit of the event is widespread. For example, when Sally Jones was the sports presenter for *BBC Breakfast* Time in 1989, she was playing in Group Two in Exmouth. There was an emergency at the BBC; Jeremy Paxman had been taken ill.

Jones travelled to London by train after dinner, appeared in the studio in the early hours of the morning, presented the programme, and was driven back to Exmouth "at 120mph" to help Warwickshire defeat Sussex. Much fun was had, too. Until lights out, of course.

Schofield claims breach of contract over sacking

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY IAN LAYBOURN

GARRY SCHOFIELD, the former Great Britain captain, yesterday left Super League strugglers Huddersfield and announced he was suing the club for wrongful dismissal.

Huddersfield said on Monday that the stand-off was being relieved of his coaching duties and would be reverting to his former status as player.

The club said that they had taken action because Schofield, who was only eight months into a three-year contract as head coach, did not possess the correct coaching qualifications - a

level three certificate. Schofield immediately sought legal advice and his solicitor, Paul Scholey, yesterday announced that action was being taken for alleged breach of contract.

In a statement issued through his solicitor Schofield said: "The actions of the club leave me with no alternative but to regard myself as dismissed."

"I feel badly let down. I can't believe that the club would expect me now to play for them following my dismissal as coach. My confidence in the board has been shattered by their approach and it would not be fair either to the other players or me to expect me to continue to play for the Giants."

The Huddersfield chief executive, Les Coulter, said: "When we put the problem to Garry on Saturday he agreed to revert to being a player and pledged himself 110 per cent to the club."

Scholey said: "The club purported to remove him on the basis that he was under qualified, lacking a level three certificate. In fact, it now seems no such requirement arises until October 1999."

Under Schofield, who succeeded Steve Ferris as coach last November, the Giants won just two of their 13 Super League matches and are four points adrift at the foot of the table. Schofield, a £135,000 buy

from Leeds in February 1996, is said to be keen to stay in the game. He has played more than 500 matches for Hull, Leeds, Bateman, Western Suburbs and Huddersfield and made a record-equalling 46 appearances for Great Britain, whom he captained 13 times.

Jason Flowers, the Castleford full-back, is in line for his first appearance for Scotland after being named yesterday in a squad of 24 by the coach, Billy McGinty. He is one of 15 newcomers - who include an Australian, two New Zealanders and a South African. Scotland have taken advantage of the relaxation of the qualification rules and will play their first game in



Schofield: Suing club

the inaugural triangular international tournament against France in Perpignan on 11 November. They meet Ireland at Parkfield this Saturday night.

Griffiths dismisses World Cup worries

RUGBY UNION

THE WELSH Rugby Union chairman, Glynor Griffiths, has dismissed fears that the 1999 Rugby World Cup will not be held in Wales and that the Millennium Stadium will not be completed on time.

Griffiths insists that the construction of the new £120m stadium on the site of the famous Cardiff Arms Park site is on schedule and that Wales will host the tournament.

The WRU had an injunction served on the media regarding a leaked memo from the RWC chairman, Leo Williams, voicing concerns about the organisation of the tournament lifted by a judge yesterday.

Griffiths said, however, that Williams' worries about ticketing for the World Cup final and security arrangements for the tournament had been addressed. "Despite what is said or written, this project is on time and will be completed by June next year," Griffiths said. "Building a stadium of this size normally takes four years but we are trying to build in two and a quarter years. But we will open the stadium on June 26th, 1999 with a game against South Africa and will be ready for the World Cup with the opening match on October 1."

"It is a great project and what we are trying to build in Wales is the finest stadium in the world."

There was other trouble for the WRU yesterday as the New Zealand Rugby Football Union's chief executive, David Moffett, revealed that he had asked the WRU to clarify their position towards the All Blacks assistant coach, Graham Henry.

There had been media reports that Wales had wanted Henry to succeed Kevin Bowring as national coach. Moffett said in a statement that the NZRFU took a dim view of another national rugby union attempting to induce a leading contracted coach to break an existing agreement.

"We view this situation very seriously and demand an explanation from the WRU," Moffett said.

مكتبات الامم

Boon is happy to ride his luck

CRICKET

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN
at Taunton

Durham 168-3 v Somerset

DAVID BOON could probably bat with his moustache. It is big enough (it would probably also win prizes at the local horticultural show) and on his day he is good enough. But he still twice came within a whisker of losing his wicket yesterday as Andy Caddick found the edge of his bat. If Boon had gone there was every chance that the rest of the Durham side would have meekly followed their captain.

However, the Tasmanian had the luck of the devil and he rode it. The first chance came when the former Australian opener edged just over the top of first slip when he was on two, shortly before lunch. Four hours later, after an irritating interruption by light but persistent rain, Caddick unleashed a beauty that flew off the edge and went like a bullet straight to second slip, where the unfortunate Keith Parsons failed to get his hands on it and succeeded only in spilling the chance.

At that point Boon had only added 10 to his score. He made Somerset pay thereafter as he muscled his way with powerful drives and slashing cuts - one of the toiling Graham Rose had hit the boundary boards before anyone had realised it was on its way there - towards a well-earned half-century.

He is certainly in good nick, even if he is nipping the odd delivery. He is more than halfway to 1,000 runs for the season (last year he missed out on the mark by just 19 runs), having passed 50 on four occasions, all in the championship. With an average just a smidgeon short of 50, Boon has added some serious clout to Durham's cause.

True, they have slipped up of late, sliding from the heady heights of third in the table back to seventh after heavy defeats in their last two matches.

But after some early wobbles Boon, now in his second season with Durham, cruised to another fifty and a third championship century is well within his scope. His third-wicket partnership with the steady Nick Speak (43), which has carried Durham out of immediate danger, has so far realised 87 runs.

While Somerset are not making scoring that easy, there were a few too many lapses in the field. The earliest came in the third over when John Morris, having survived a belated appeal for leg before to Andy Caddick, decided to turn the moment into a run. Not a good idea. He was sent back by his opening partner, Jon Lewis, but was well beaten to the crease by the ball.

Unfortunately for Somerset, Mark Lathwell - possibly partially unsighted by his helmet, but nevertheless able to move smartly round behind the stumps from his close catching position - fumbled it, and a potential run-out opportunity was missed.

Unlike Boon, however, Morris was unable to make the most of what turned out to be his lucky day. An hour or so later he cut Parsons unerringly to Adrian Pierson at cover and departed for 30. Compensation was on hand, however, in the form of the news that the former Derbyshire batsman had been awarded the sixth and final one of his present contract.

Lewis had gone by then, losing his leg bail to an unplayable delivery from Caddick, while Jimmy Daley, who replaced Morris, was caught for two at slip.



Mike Smith shows his mettle on his way to taking three Surrey wickets for Gloucestershire at Cheltenham yesterday. Antony Thompson/GPA

Hollioake hits back in style

ADAM HOLLIOAKE pushed aside his England disappointment to lead a Surrey revival against title rivals Gloucestershire at Cheltenham.

Hollioake, who lost the captaincy of the England one-day team to Surrey team-mate Alec Stewart at the weekend, was unbeaten on 100 when rain ended play at 256 for 6. It was his first century of the season and of crucial importance to Surrey, who were in trouble at 138 for 5 at lunch. Mike Smith and Courtney Walsh shared five wickets for

Gloucestershire, while Tim Hancock removed James Knott with his first delivery.

"It was nice to get in on a fast, bouncy wicket," Hollioake said. "I wasn't really surprised to lose the England one-day captaincy, because there had been quite a bit of talk about it in the press."

Hollioake opted to bat first on a good batting pitch, but Surrey struggled against some testing new-ball bowling.

Jason Ratcliffe batted positively for his 38 but was undone by a Courtney Walsh delivery

which he hooked to Jon Lewis at long leg.

When Alistair Brown and Ben Hollioake both fell before lunch, Gloucestershire appeared to have the upper hand.

Hollioake senior, however, found a reliable partner in Knott as the pair shared a six-wicket stand of 115 in 32 overs.

Lancashire's John Crawley and Graham Lloyd did their best to lighten the gloom at a damp and dismal Colwyn Bay, just as the first day of their match with Glamorgan was in danger of grinding to a halt.

Only 113 runs had been scored in 55 overs when Lloyd arrived at the wicket. He promptly reached his first

championship half-century of the season off just 44 balls. But before he could add to that score, Robert Croft tempted him into a lofted on-drive, which was held by Darren Thomas.

Crawley was still there with an unbeaten 75 to his name as Lancashire closed on 213 for 4 off 76 overs.

Only 15 runs came from the first 14 overs of the day and just 21 from the first 23. The open-

ers had taken the score to 48 before McKeown, on 20, fell lbw to Adrian Dale.

Croft began with a maiden and only one more over was possible before the first of several interruptions cost 11 overs either side of the lunch interval. The players returned for two more uneventful overs, before another seven-over interruption.

Lancashire then lost Wood for 37, and Chilton soon followed, but Lloyd then hammered his first 30 off 17 balls, before a further 16 overs were lost to the weather.

McLean's painful assault produces results

BY JOHN COLLIS
at Portsmouth

Nottinghamshire 128; Hampshire 106-5

THE AMATEUR Services Ground is under new management, and the pitch is under a new top dressing. Having inspected the refashioned surface before this game, as he is required to do

when alchemy has taken place, the England Cricket Board pitch supremo, Harry Brind, confined Hercules to barracks. This six-ton roller has been clanking up and down these Portsmouth acres for 60 years, but Brind judged the new strip would crumble too early if Hercules had an outing.

And so Nixon McLean had one instead. The only fast

bowler of international class in the match felt the morning sun on his back, and saw the ball bound eagerly from the surface.

A succession of Nottinghamshire batsmen cautiously clipped their way into the mid-teens and were castled, and none of them showed much appetite for taking on the brisk St Vincent bowler. Least of all Tim Robinson, who misjudged his

first delivery. In ducking into McLean he ended his day's entertainment before it had begun, and with it possibly even his first-class career.

He announced a while back he would quit at the end of the season, and the date may have been brought forward - his wrist is broken.

A year ago Yorkshire had a clear-out, and two quicks deemed surplus to require-

ments - Peter Hartley and Alex Morris - came to Hampshire. Yesterday it was Morris who proved McLean's most potent

partner, and between them they snaffled seven wickets to dismiss Nottinghamshire by 2.35pm. The most notable shot had been when Paul Franks flailed a tennis smash at a

McLean bouncer and scored a six behind him into the

sightscreen, but it was not a stroke suited to the first day of a Championship fixture.

In their turn, although not faced with anything of McLean's fire power, the home side found progress equally tortuous. There were some suicides - John Stephenson hooking, Kevin James run out by Matthew Dow-

man's direct hit - but these seemed double unforgivable in

such tricky circumstances. After an hour's break for drizzle, and in fading light, Jason Loney found a solid partner in Dimitri Mascarenhas, who is revealing all-round skills, and the hosts crawled back from 54 for 5.

However, a day that had begun sunny never recovered from rain, and at 6.20pm, with Loney a run away from 50, the gloom halted proceedings.

Scots fall in tense finish

THE AMATEUR teams of England, Scotland and Ireland yesterday saw their hopes of winning the European Championship disappear in The Hague.

The Scots, who lost by one wicket in a tense finish against Denmark, now face the Irish in a bronze-medal play-off. England, who were beaten by the Netherlands, take on Germany - winners of the Second Division pool - to decide fifth place.

Chasing a target of 178, the Danes were coasting against Scotland, only to suffer a late bout of nerves. First, Anjad Khan spooned Craig Wright to Keith Sheridan with just a single required. Then Soren Vestergaard was snatched up by Ian Stanger off Brinkley with the scores level. Soren Klitgaard, however, sealed the Scots' fate with a scrambled run with six balls left.

Denmark will take on the Netherlands in Saturday's final after the hosts maintained their 100 per cent record with a four-wicket win over England. Nick Gaywood hit 43 and Steve Foster 40 as they reached 193 for 7, but the Netherlands were always up with the rate and passed their target comfortably in the 49th over. Their top scorer was the New Zealand-born Roger Bradley with 51.

Britannic Assurance Championship

Glamorgan v Lancashire

COLWYN BAY (Day 1 of 4): Glamorgan (1pt), Lancashire (1pt)

Lancashire won toss

LANCASHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Min
P C McKeown lbw b Dale	20	0	3	98	112
N Wood c & b Watkin	37	0	3	145	186
J P Crawley not out	75	0	14	132	178
M Chilton b Thomas	13	0	1	24	22
G D Lloyd c Thomas b Croft	50	2	7	49	62
M Watkinson not out	2	0	0	13	15
Extras (b1 lb5 nb10)	16				
Total (for 4, 75 overs)	213				
Fall: 1-48, 2-85, 3-113, 4-192.					
To Bat: Masim Akram, FW K Hegg, D Austin, C J Schofield, P J Martin.					
Bowling: S L Watkin 14-6-33-1, O T Parkin 13-8-37-0, S D Thomas 16-7-37-1, D A Cosker 13-3-48-0, A Dale 4-1-12-1, R D B Croft 16-4-40-1.					
Umpires: D J Constant and B Duddlestone.					

Gloucestershire v Surrey

CHELTHAM (Day 1 of 4): Gloucestershire (2pts), Surrey (2pts)

Surrey won toss

SURREY - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Min
J D Ratcliffe c Lewis b Walsh	38	0	6	58	67
I J Ward c Russell b Smith	0	0	0	4	4
N Shahid lbw b Smith	12	0	3	25	35
A J Hollioake not out	100	1	18	142	213
A D Brown c Lewis b Walsh	22	0	5	18	24
B C Hollioake c Ball b Smith	19	0	4	33	41
B C Knott c Russell b Hancock	35	0	2	109	110
J A Barry not out	0	0	0	7	7
Extras (b4 lb7 w2 nb17)	30				
Total (for 5, 64.4 overs)	256				
Fall: 1-2, 2-44, 3-77, 4-109, 5-138, 6-253.					
To Bat: M P Bicknell, A J Tudor, Saqlain Mushtaq, Bowling: C A Walsh 15-5-32-2, A M Smith 13-1-52-3, J Lewis 15-2-69-0, M W Alleyne 9-1-53-0, M C J Ball 11-1-37-0, T H C Hancock 1-4-1-2-1.					
Umpires: M J Harris and R A White.					

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Hampshire v Nottinghamshire

PORTSMOUTH (Day 1 of 4): Hampshire (4pts), Nottinghamshire (2pts)

Hampshire won toss

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Min
M Downman c Whitaker b McLean	16	0	3	44	59
J E R Gallian b McLean	15	0	2	30	41
U Afzal c Aymes b Hartley	15	0	3	26	45
R T Robinson ret ht	0	0	0	1	0
*P Johnson b Morris	18	0	3	30	37
G J Archer c Loney b Stephenson	16	0	3	35	41
P J Franks c Udal b Morris	22	0	3	47	63
I C W Read lbw b McLean	5	0	1	13	13
P A Strang c Morris b McLean	4	0	1	12	18
K P Evans c Aymes b Morris	4	0	0	7	11
M N Bowen not out	3	0	0	3	7
Extras (lb5 nb4)	9				
Total (41.2 overs)	128				
Fall: 1-31, 2-38, 3-59, 4-75, 5-93, 6-99, 7-119, 8-122, 9-128.					
Bowling: N A M McLean 14-4-45-4, P J Hartley 10-2-41-1, A D Mascarenhas 6-1-11-0, A C Morris 8-2-1-26-3, J P Stephenson 2-1-4-1, S D Udal 1-1-0-0.					

HAMPSHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Min
J S Loney not out	49	0	6	105	210
J P Stephenson c Evans b Franks	11	0	1	25	37
G W White lbw b Bowen	11	0	1	23	25
D J James run out	0	0	0	9	9
I A N Aymes c Johnson b Bowen	0	0	0	1	3
P R Whitaker b Evans	0	0	0	1	0
A D Mascarenhas not out	28	0	5	48	58
Extras (lb5 nb4)	9				
Total (for 5, 35 overs)	108				
Fall: 1-19, 2-44, 3-50, 4-53, 5-54.					
To Bat: S D Udal, A C Morris, P J Hartley, N A M McLean.					
Bowling: P J Franks 12-2-37-1, K P Evans 13-5-25-1, M N Bowen 10-0-41-2.					
Umpires: J H Hampshire and D R Shepherd.					

Middlesex v Yorkshire

LORDS (Day 1 of 4): Middlesex (2pts), Yorkshire (1pt)

Middlesex won toss

MIDDLESEX - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Min
D J Goodchild lbw b Silverwood	0	0	0	4	2
J L Langer lbw b Stemp	63	0	9	116	125
M W Gattin b Stemp	22	0	3	44	76
O A Shah not out	96	0	10	252	294
*K Brown c Byas b Middlebrook	40	5	104	116	
P N Weekes not out	36	0	4	119	130
Extras (b9 lb4 w2 nb6)	21				
Total (for 4, 106 overs)	278				
Fall: 1-0, 2-67, 3-108, 4-183.					
To Bat: D C Nash, C J Batt, J P Hewitt, R L Johnson, P C R Turner.					
Bowling: C E W Silverwood 17-6-38-1, P M Hutchison 17-2-66-0, G M Hamilton 16-8-28-0, R D Stemp 28-6-67-2, J D Middlebrook 21-7-47-1, A McGrath 3-1-12-0, D S Lehmann 4-2-7-0.					
Umpires: J W Holder and G Sharp.					

Somerset v Durham

TAUNTON (Day 1 of 4): Somerset (1pt), Durham (0pts)

Durham won toss

DURHAM - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Min
J J B Lewis b Caddick	19	0	2	38	41
J E Morris c Pierson b Parsons	30	0	4	54	88
N J Speak not out	43	0	5	138	175
J A Daley c Trescottick b Bulbeck	2	0	0	11	16
*D C Boon not out	52	0	6	98	109
Extras (b13 lb3 nb6)	22				
Total (for 3, 56 overs)	168				
Fall: 1-34, 2-74, 3-81.					
To Bat: P D Collingwood, TM P Speight, N C Phillips, M J Foster, M M Betts, S J Harrison.					
Bowling: A R Caddick 19-1-75-1, G D Rose 12-4-33-0, K A Parsons 9-6-4-1, M Bulbeck 7-0-19-1, A R K Pierson 1-0-4-0, Mushraaq Ahmed 6-0-12-0, M E Trescottick 2-1-5-0.					
Umpires: J H Harris and B Leadbeater.					

Northamptonshire v Derbyshire

NORTHAMPTON (Day 1 of 4): Northants (3pts), Derbyshire (0pts)

Northamptonshire won toss

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Min
R Montgomerie c Spence b D'Freitas	2	0	0	5	2
R J Bailey not out	145	1	20	276	316
M B Loye c Krikken b DeFreitas	157	3	21	224	282
*K M Curran not out	18	0	4	30	28
Extras (lb7 nb2)	9				
Total (for 2, 89 overs)	331				
Fall: 1-2, 2-298.					
To Bat: A L Penberthy, G P Swann, TD Ripley, J P Taylor, F A Rose, D E Malcolm, J F Brown.					
Bowling: P A J DeFreitas 21-2-62-2, K J Dean 14-1-56-0, T M Smith 8-0-43-0, G M Roberts 33-4-96-0, K J Barnett 5-0-26-0, M E Cassar 8-0-41-0.					
Umpires: J C Balderstone and J W Lloyds.					

Britannic Assurance Championship

	P	W	L	D	Bar	Bwt	Pts
Surrey	10	6	2	2	24	34	160
Leicestershire	10	5	0	5	24	27	146
Lancashire	9	5	1	3	14	28	131
Gloucestershire	9	5	3	1	10	35	128
Kent	10	4	2	4	10	34	120
Yorkshire	9	3	2	4	23	34	117
Sussex	10	3	3	4	19	36	115
Worcestershire	9	3	2	4	20	29	109
Durham	9	3	4	2	15	34	103
Warwickshire	9	3	3	3	18	30	99
Derbyshire	8	3	4	1	14	25	90
Nottinghamshire	10	2	5	3	14	35	90
Gloucestershire	9	2	4	3	16	30	87
Hampshire	9	2	3	4	12	31	87
Middlesex	10	2	4	4	16	26	86
Essex	9	2	4	3	18	22	81
Somerset	10	1	5	4	11	33	72
Northants	9	1	2	6	15	22	71

Table as at start of play

Today's fixtures (11.00 unless stated)

CORNHILL INSURANCE FOURTH TEST (First day of two)
Trent Bridge: England v South Africa
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (First day

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 23 July 1998

Goodwill Games: Impressive victory for British triple jumper is overshadowed by horrific injury to Chinese gymnast

Edwards leaves his best until last

BY JOHN MEHAFFEY
in New York

THE BRITISH world record holder Jonathan Edwards, won the Goodwill Games triple jump in New York on Tuesday, but the night's events were marred by a serious injury to a Chinese gymnast in the vault event.

Lan Sang was in a critical but stable condition yesterday morning after spending the night in the intensive care unit of Nassau County Medical Centre after a horrific fall.

The 17-year-old Lan, China's champion women's vaulter, fractured two vertebrae at the base of her neck and was paralysed from the chest down after landing on her head while attempting a forward vault in practice before Tuesday night's competition.

Lan apparently lost her bearings while in the air in a practice vault and landed on her head on the mat.

The Games' chief physician, Dr Brock Schnebel, said: "At

this time she cannot move her legs. She has minimal motion of her arms and cannot feel from her mid-chest down." He said he did not know if her paralysis would be permanent.

The accident overshadowed Edwards' jump of 17.63m, his best leap of the year so far, which he achieved on his final attempt.

He had jumped on Sunday at Gateshead, arrived in New York on Monday and left for home immediately after winning. "I'm tired. It's very late in the evening on my body clock," he said. "I'm very happy with 17.63 and to beat a great field. As I warmed up it wasn't all there, but there is always a little adrenalin in the last run."

Edwards, who set the world record of 18.29m in 1995 at Gothenburg, Sweden, forced the Cuban world champion, Yoelbi Quesada, to settle for second with 17.27. The Olympic champion, Kenny Harrison of the United States, was eighth and last, at 16.53.

On the track, world champion Maurice Greene outpaced Trinidad's Ato Boldon and Donovan Bailey of Canada to win the 100 metres.

Greene led from the start to win in 9.96sec with the world 200m champion Boldon second in 10.00 and the American Brian Lewis third in 10.25.

"I guess I'm the world's fastest man," Greene said. "I had a very good start, a very good drive phase and I accelerated very well. The reason I won is I executed my race and did not worry about the other guys."

Bailey set the world record at 9.84sec to win the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, but has not run well this season. He had a poor start and slowed before the finishing line and was seventh in 10.30.

"I had a bad race. I had a bad start. I lost," Bailey said. "I'm not disappointed at all. I'm surprised. It's just one of those things. I was too tight. I wanted to win it too much. It's not

like Atlanta [with preliminaries] where I can get into a groove. One race, anyone can win."

The victory, which earned Greene £25,000, was especially pleasing for the American as, just as he had done in the World Championships, he conquered Bailey in a further chapter of their bitter rivalry.

"I knew I had to capitalise on the start to win," Greene said. "These guys are tough at the start, and I had to be tougher."

Michael Johnson, the world and Olympic champion, pulled away from around half-way to win the 400m in 43.76sec, the fastest time in the world this year and one he said shows he is ready to put nagging left leg injuries behind him.

"It tells me I can run well this season and I'm back where I was," Johnson said. "It's a matter of getting in a few more workouts and some races. I'm definitely on the road to getting back where I was."

The Olympic champion, Noureddine Morceli of Algeria, took command of the mile at the bell and never relinquished the lead, winning in 3:21.39sec. Kenyans William Tanui and Daniel Komen trailed in 3:24.05 and 3:24.78 respectively.

For the second time this year, the 34-year-old world record holder, Sergei Bubka of Ukraine, was called for a time violation and recorded no height. The American Jeff Hartwig won the competition with a vault of 6.01 metres, surpassing his national record.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey struggled at times, but made it through the first day of the final heptathlon of her illustrious career. The world record holder had 3,833 points after four events to trail fellow American Dedee Nathan by 34 points.

"I'm trying to stay positive and execute," 36-year-old Joyner-Kersey said. "I am a fighter, so I've just got to go for it."

Results, Digest, page 27



Jonathan Edwards makes the final leap that gave him victory in the triple jump in New York on Tuesday. AP



Lan Sang is attended by paramedics after falling during practice for the vault. AFP

Neary proves a popular winner

BOXING
BY GLEN LEACH

FOR ONCE, boxing didn't shoot itself in the foot. ITV's return to live coverage of the sport on Tuesday night did not elicit outbreaks of rioting, ear-biting, hepatitis or worse. Instead, the network's decision to end a four-year period of non-involvement was rewarded by a fight that represented boxing at its best.

And with early signs that the broadcast was well-received, there is every likelihood that the terrestrial television company will increase its involvement in the often controversial sport.

ITV were delighted with Shea Neary's third defence of the World Boxing Union light-welterweight championship against South African southpaw Naas Scheepers. The bout, staged at the Kingsway Leisure Centre, Widnes, was a minor classic, 12 rounds of committed, exciting boxing, after which Neary, from Liverpool, was awarded a wide, unanimous decision.

Carol Millward, head of press and publicity for ITV, said: "It was a fantastic fight and in terms of how it performed for ITV, we're very, very pleased. The fight was watched by an average of 2.5 million, peaking at three million, which is very encouraging."

Those ratings make Neary-Scheepers the highest-rating fight on television in the last two years. Sky Sport may be able to claim bigger names, such as Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, but with a top viewing figure for boxing of only 800,000 in 1997, the satellite network's relative limitations are apparent.

The revival in interest by ITV is a major boost for the sport. While a dedicated network such as Sky Sport can finance major promotions in Britain, thus facilitating increased championship opportunities for domestic fighters, the limited availability of the satellite chan-

nel in comparison with a major terrestrial has resulted in a lack of public recognition for contemporary fighters.

ITV backed away from boxing after a succession of major names, in whom they had invested heavily, left the network for BSkyB. A further factor in their decision was that many of the matches they have bought in the past transpired to be uncompetitive.

But over the past three years, Neary's promoters, Munro-Hyland, in conjunction with the Norfolk-based WBU, have provided a consistently high level of matchmaking, reflected by Neary-Scheepers, and also by a fight for the WBU's lightweight

title - also on the Widnes card but not shown by ITV - which saw Liverpool's Colin Dunne survive a late scare to defeat his French challenger, Affif Djelti, also on points.

The return to terrestrial television has provided a lifeline for boxing, but the ITV's controller of sport, Brian Barwick, stresses that caution will be their key when deciding on future policy.

"That was a great fight, a genuinely great one, but without meaning to sound overly negative, we will take things slowly and on a fight-by-fight basis for the time being," he said. "Boxing has got to do a lot of work to get back into the mass

audience's affection - a lot of people have got on with their lives since boxing was last shown four years ago. But the viewing figures were satisfactory, a good building block if we decide to go forward, and the experiment must be seen as a success."

Steve Collins, the former WBO middleweight and super-middleweight champion, has announced that he will return to the ring. Collins retired at the end of 1997, but the 34-year-old said that he would like the chance to beat Chris Eubank for a third time, before aiming to meet Roy Jones Jr, who holds the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association light-heavyweight titles.

Tyson applies for New Jersey licence

MIKE TYSON'S advisor, Shelly Finkel, apparently went to New Jersey to seek a new licence for the boxer because he did not think he would be re-licensed in Nevada, it emerged on Monday. "If I believed Mike Tyson would be licensed in Nevada, I wouldn't have gone to New Jersey first," Finkel said. Tyson's licence was revoked by the Nevada State Athletic Commission for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in a world title fight last July. Tyson became eligible to reapply for his licence a year after the decision, on 9 July. A hearing on the New Jersey application is set for 23 July.

The NSAC chairman, Dr Elias Ghanem, the vice chairman Dr James Nave and NSAC executive director, Marc Ratner, each said they have intentionally avoided discussing the subject of Tyson's reinstatement. "I can't tell you how anyone would vote because we've made it a point not to discuss it with anyone, including among ourselves," Ratner said. Ghanem said that Nevada should decide Tyson's future. "I expect the state of New Jersey to honour our suspension," Ghanem said. "If Mike Tyson is to be licensed, the place for him to apply is in Nevada."

RACING RESULTS

CATTERICK

2.00: (6f maiden stakes, 2yo)
1. LAUREL (D Holland 6-1)
2. Miss Grange (J P Lynch 5-2)
3. Tamberlane (P Lynch 5-2)
Also: 11-4 Prosperity (4th), 20-1 Morning Chorus, 30-1 Allingham, 100-1 Ring Train.
7.15: 3-16, 1-16, 5-1. Winner bay gelding by Moon out of Luckless, trained by J. Berry, Cockermouth, for A. B. Fitter. Tote: £150.00, £150.00, £150.00. Dual forecast: £150.00, £150.00. Triple: £150.00, £150.00, £150.00. CSF: £150.00.

LEICESTER

6.30: 1. CATFOOT LANE (M Roberts 20-1), 2. Crofters Edge (4-1), 3. Astroblethi (20-1). 14.10: 3-16, 1-16, 5-1. Winner bay gelding by Pating out of Daning Chorus, trained by J. Berry, Cockermouth, for A. B. Fitter. Tote: £150.00, £150.00, £150.00. Dual forecast: £150.00, £150.00. Triple: £150.00, £150.00, £150.00. CSF: £150.00.

SANDOWN

6.15: 1. TEST THE WATER (H Hughes 7-1), 2. Hugely 7-2, 3. High Premium 9-4, 4. Sing For Me (T Williams 20-1). 7.15: 3-16, 1-16, 5-1. Winner bay gelding by Pating out of Daning Chorus, trained by J. Berry, Cockermouth, for A. B. Fitter. Tote: £150.00, £150.00, £150.00. Dual forecast: £150.00, £150.00. Triple: £150.00, £150.00, £150.00. CSF: £150.00.

WIDNES

2.15: 1. THE CAVIAR MAN (J Williams 15-1), 2. Sir Galathea 7-1, 3. In The Games 12-2, 12-2, 12-2. Winner bay gelding by Pating out of Daning Chorus, trained by J. Berry, Cockermouth, for A. B. Fitter. Tote: £150.00, £150.00, £150.00. Dual forecast: £150.00, £150.00. Triple: £150.00, £150.00, £150.00. CSF: £150.00.

BRIGHTON

HYPERION

2.20 Toy Trader 2.55 Double Rush 3.25 Inclination 4.00 Lillanite 4.30 Frankie Fair 5.05 Fearless

FORM VERDICT

A poor race in which KINKA, having put up arguably his best performance this season over course and distance, makes some appeal. She is more reliable than most and can outstay Gave Hill, who is weighted to reverse Warwick running with Double Rush.

3.25 ROCK GARDENS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 7f

1. 50200 SHARP SHUFFLE (5) (D) R Jones 5-9, 2. 50200 LORD OLIVER (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 3. 50200 GANDOUR (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 4. 50200 WILD COLOMBIA (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 5. 50200 ELEGANT HERO (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 6. 50200 PEAK DAWN (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 7. 50200 PORCELAIN (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 8. 50200 PRIVATE SEAL (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 9. 50200 HENRI GOLF MAGIC (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 10. 50200 KATE LANE (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 11. 50200 DE LA LUNE (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 12. 50200 RUNAROUND (12) (D) R Jones 5-9.

4.00 PEVENSEY HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3yo 1m 2f

1. 40200 LILLANITE (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 2. 40200 DESERT SPA (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 3. 40200 WILD COLOMBIA (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 4. 40200 ELEGANT HERO (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 5. 40200 PEAK DAWN (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 6. 40200 PORCELAIN (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 7. 40200 PRIVATE SEAL (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 8. 40200 HENRI GOLF MAGIC (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 9. 40200 KATE LANE (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 10. 40200 DE LA LUNE (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 11. 40200 RUNAROUND (12) (D) R Jones 5-9.

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

Despite the size of the field, an uncompetitive affair. With Lillanite unproven on ground this firm and After Dawn arguably on a stiff mark now, Sure Quest and CERTAIN DANGER are taken against the field. The last-named shaped as though there will be better to come at the trip when turning in her best effort to date last week and is preferred.

4.30 JOE BLANKS CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP (D) £5,000 added 3yo 1m

1. 40200 ELBARRE (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 2. 40200 SOFT TOUCH (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 3. 40200 LUCKY DOUBT (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 4. 40200 SALLYETTE (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 5. 40200 FRANKIE FAIR (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 6. 40200 CHRYSLIS (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 7. 40200 TORRADO PRINCE (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 8. 40200 FANNING (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 9. 40200 GILBERT (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 10. 40200 LYCAN (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 11. 40200 LUTIN BAY (12) (D) R Jones 5-9, 12. 40200 BERGAMOT (12) (D) R Jones 5-9.

FORM VERDICT

Quite an open affair in which the improved Frankie Fair is the one to beat over a course that evidently suits her well. It is debatable just what she achieved at Fossebridge last time with 12 of her 16 miles racing on the slower course side, however, and she will find things tougher off her new mark. Better value may be found with LYCAN, whose improved form on the all-weather may simply be a reflection of overall progress.

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

LORD OLIVER stands out among some disappointing/moderate performers - he is consistent, proven over course and distance and well suited by his ground. The only reason for caution is that the stable is going through a quiet spell. Sharp Shuffle could prove the best forecast bet.

FORM VERDICT

A tricky affair in which only two can be ruled out with total confidence. Rambold is capable of a bold show and Malachite has strong claims on the book on the best form, but preference is for RAINBOW RAIN, who threatens to end a barren spell, could prove best value assuming he can cope with the drop in trip. The three-year-old Fosse Quest and Miss Money Spender are probably capable of better than shown so far.

Zoff the legend lands Italian job

FOOTBALL

DINO ZOFF, the legendary captain of Italy's 1982 World Cup triumph, was named as the new coach of the national side yesterday following the resignation of Cesare Maldini.

The 56-year-old Lazio president, former national goalkeeper and the most capped player in Italian football history, had been widely tipped for the job.

Maldini, the man with the

widest parting in football, took over less than two years ago, but his days as coach were numbered after Italy's lacklustre World Cup performance in which they went out on penalties in the quarter-finals to the eventual winners, France.

Italy almost did not make it to the finals, only scraping through after a two-match play-off. They were beaten to the automatic qualifying place by England. Once in France, Maldini, the 66-year-old father of

Italy's captain, Paolo, was criticised for relying too heavily on dull, defensive tactics.

Zoff has signed a four-year contract, which runs through until July 2002 and should take in the next World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

Zoff played in a record 112 internationals for his country, culminating in the 1982 triumph - Italy's last major success on the international stage.

The Italian daily sports paper *La Gazzetta dello Sport*

reported that the Italian football president, Luciano Nizzola, who met Maldini on Saturday, had originally hoped he could stay on and had been embarrassed to have to call him on his mobile while Maldini was sunbathing to announce the change of plan.

"Cesare Maldini was bitter, I can understand that. He's been well and truly lynched," Nizzola was quoted as saying.

The main stumbling block to Zoff's appointment had been

money. As Lazio president he earns £350,000 a season and has a deal until 2002, compared with Maldini's salary of around £230,000. *Gazzetta* said.

Zoff's first game at the helm will be Italy's European Championship qualifier against Wales on 5 September.

He coached Italy's Olympic squad through an unbeaten qualifying campaign for the Seoul Games in 1988 and had a glittering career in *Serie A* as a player and coach at Juventus.

The club won the Uefa Cup and Italian Cup under his guidance in 1990.

The veteran Italy forward Roberto Baggio said he was delighted at the prospect of Zoff taking over.

"I'm happy for Zoff, who I consider someone who has a great deal of charisma," he said.

But the striker Christian Vieri, whose goals made him one of Italy's leading lights in France, was disappointed for

Maldini, whom he had known when the former coach was in charge of Italy's Under-21 side.

"I don't think Maldini did anything wrong. We went out of the World Cup with our heads held high," Vieri said.

As part of Maldini's settlement, Nizzola said he would offer the former coach a role with the Italian FA. However, the bluntly-spoken Maldini was dismissive. "What as? Driver, maybe," he said.

In a statement, Nizzola thanked the 66-year-old Maldini, a former Milan defender, for his determined efforts in re-launching the national team's image since he took over as the manager from Arrigo Sacchi.

During Maldini's tenure, Italy won 11 games, drew seven and lost once - 2-0 to Glenn Hoddle's England at Le Tournoi last year - while scoring 30 goals and conceding 12.

Koreans to change dates of World Cup

THE 2002 World Cup may have to be rescheduled to avoid the usual June-July rainy season in Japan and South Korea, South Korea's top football official said yesterday.

The World Cup finals have traditionally been held in June and July, avoiding professional league schedules in Europe and South America. But Japan and South Korea, co-hosts of the World Cup, think that schedule should be changed in 2002 to avoid the rains.

"The rescheduling is an urgent matter that should be decided on by the end of this year at the latest," Chung Moon-joon, head of the South Korean Football Association, said.

A spokesman for the English FA reacted coolly to the suggestion, saying: "This is a matter for FIFA. I would add that the major European leagues have their close seasons in June and July and that the World Cup has traditionally been played then, as in France 98." The spokesman declined to comment whether the FA had yet been consulted about the proposal. He added that the FA have no opinion on a schedule change yet. "It would be wrong for us to speculate when no decision has been made."

Chung, who represents Asia on the game's governing body, FIFA, suggested that the 2002 World Cup finals be rescheduled for September.

He noted that the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul were held in September and that the 1964 Games in Tokyo were staged in October.

When the issue was unofficially raised at a FIFA executive meeting in Paris in June, Chung said he understood that most members showed support for the suggested rescheduling.

"This year, as usual, Japan and South Korea had much rain during the World Cup in France," he said.

Chung said that changing the schedule would not be easy, because it would require complete agreement from all the major national football com-

mittees and clubs in Europe and South America.

In Geneva, FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said the governing body had not been officially informed of the proposal, and that it still was too early to discuss it.

Chung also said he still wants North Korea to share two or three of the 32 World Cup matches South Korea will stage in 2002. The other 32 matches will be played in Japan.

North Korea so far has taken no official stand on the proposed sharing, suggested by South Korea and endorsed by FIFA last year.

"I think the important thing for now is that North Korea should try to build trust by taking part in regional friendship tournaments, or inter-Korea goodwill matches," Chung said.

A 58-year-old Japanese man began the last 51 kilometres of a swim to South Korea yesterday to draw attention to hopes for a successful staging of the 2002 World Cup finals.

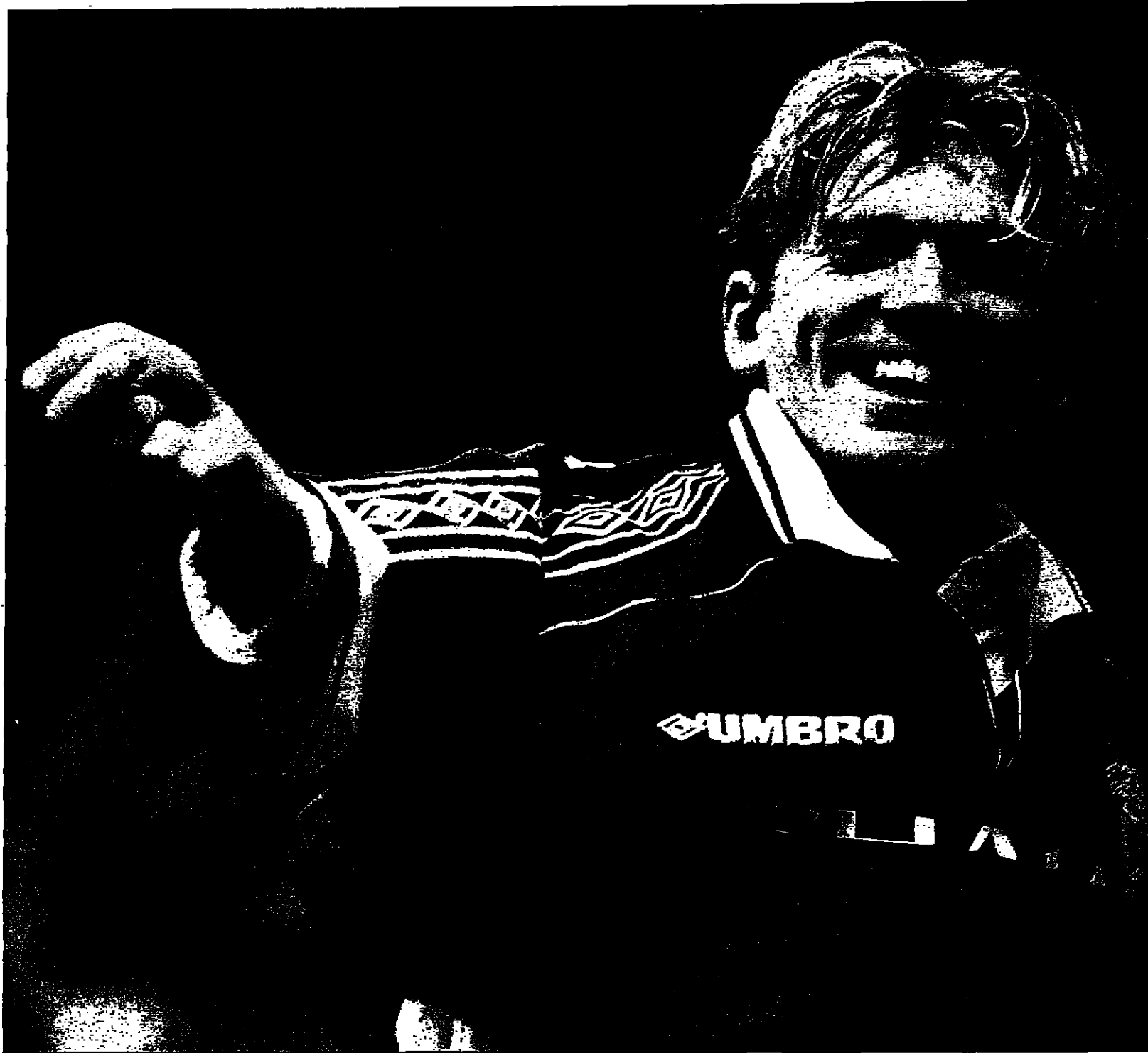
Tomoshige Hirose, the owner of a sports goods store, swam for five hours yesterday from Japan's Tsushima Island, going half-way across the Korean Strait, Keiji Shigematsu, a spokesman for Japan's coast-guard, said.

Hirose returned to Tsushima last night, and plans to resume his swim today, weather permitting, from the spot where he left off, Shigematsu added.

Hirose's sponsor, Marine Pal Yobuko Company, which operates a sightseeing boat, said Hirose is scheduled to meet the mayor of Fusan tomorrow to present money to help Korean children buy tickets for the World Cup finals.

Kiyonari Nakamichi, an official of Marine Pal Yobuko, said the money would be some 400,000 yen (£1,750).

Hirose had left Yobuko on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu last Wednesday and reached Tsushima on Sunday after swimming 80km via Iki Island off Nagasaki prefecture.



Manchester United's new signing, the Swedish international forward Lars Jesper Blomqvist, tries out his United shirt for size as he is unveiled at Old Trafford yesterday

United still out to sign striker

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, will continue his search for a striker after completing the £4.4m signing of Jesper Blomqvist yesterday. Ferguson feels his squad still needs reinforcing, despite taking his summer spending to over £15m with the purchase of the Swedish international winger from Parma.

Dwight Yorke, the Aston Villa striker, is still top of his shopping list, but any move remains stalemated because Ferguson is not prepared to meet Villa's £10m asking price for the Trinidad and Tobago player.

Ferguson's attempts to sign Marc-Vivien Foe from Lens have also been put back on hold while the Cameroon midfielder recovers from his broken leg. "I think we still need a stronger pool," he said. "Jesper will certainly help, but we need maybe one more. There's nothing to tell with Dwight Yorke at the moment. With any player you get the media valuation and the true valuation, and we have to find out what the true valuation is."

The Premier League yesterday poured cold water on a claim by Doug Ellis, the Aston Villa chairman, that top-flight games were set to be made available on pay-per-view television by the New Year.

Ellis was reported to have declared that between one and four matches a week could be made available on pay-per-view on a Sunday lunchtime by January as an experiment.

But although the idea undeniably remains on the leading clubs' agendas, only two months ago the Premiership chairman rejected a proposal from BSkyB to start a pay-per-view trial from September.

The amount of money on offer was not the only sticking point and many other hurdles, such as the timing of matches, supporters' concerns, policing of games and the role of clubs' in-house TV stations, still have to be resolved.

A Premier League spokesman said: "There are no active negotiations currently under way on the issue of pay-per-view. Our clubs clearly rejected previous proposals that had been put forward. Obviously, there is bound to be speculation but there are no plans at this point for any pay-per-view experiment in the near future."

Pressure grows on Ronaldo's doctor

ALMOST A fortnight after Brazil lost to France in the World Cup finals, speculation about what happened to Ronaldo continues to dominate in Brazil.

"One day doctor Lido [Toledo] is going have to reveal what really happened to Ronaldo," Roberto Carlos told the *O Globo* newspaper.

"Perhaps then people will stop asking me about what happened. I don't know the name of what Ronaldo had. All I know is that it was serious, very serious," he said.

Roberto Carlos was Ronaldo's room-mate when he suffered a 30-40 second convulsion before the World Cup final. The striker had been "burdened with nerves and worries" in the days leading up to the final on 12 July. The two players were talking in their hotel room before the game when Ronaldo stopped talking, went pale and started to sweat heavily, Roberto Carlos said.

As the convulsions started, his arms went crooked and his hands looked deformed because of nervous tension. Other players say he foamed at the mouth and swallowed his tongue.

In an interview with *Isto E*, Toledo said it would be necessary to do "detailed tests" to find out what caused Ronaldo's fit. He did not rule out the sudden illness being an epileptic fit, saying it was possible that people without a history of epilepsy could suffer a one-time occurrence of it.

But he denied claims that Ronaldo had an adverse reaction to an injection of painkiller, saying he would not have administered this before a game as it would have contravened anti-doping regulations. But over the weekend, Toledo was

shown on TV *Globo* saying he gave Ronaldo a sedative before the game. On Monday, however, he said he had given the sedative only after the game.

Brazil, meanwhile, have asked for next month's scheduled friendly against South Korea to be postponed until October. The South Korean Football Association said yesterday Brazilian authorities had sent a letter requesting a new date, citing a need to resolve "internal problems".

The French cabinet voted yesterday to make the country's 22-man World Cup squad

France's 3-0 victory over Brazil in the final, an event that rallied the French in days of joyous celebration, came just two days before the traditional Bastille Day honours list unveiled on 14 July.

The French president, Jacques Chirac, hastily announced the awards at the annual Elysee Palace garden party that turned into a raucous cheering session for the footballers invited as special guests. The France coach, Aimé Jacquet, is also to be decorated as a knight of the Legion of Honour.

knights of the Legion of Honour. The French president, Jacques Chirac, hastily announced the awards at the annual Elysee Palace garden party that turned into a raucous cheering session for the footballers invited as special guests. The France coach, Aimé Jacquet, is also to be decorated as a knight of the Legion of Honour.

Albert Costa of Spain, the No. 6 seed, advanced, however, with a comfortable 6-3, 6-4 defeat of the Argentinean Franco Squilari.

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Rios retraces path towards summit

TENNIS

MARCELO RIOS avoided the rash of upsets in the Mercedes Cup yesterday, comfortably defeating Jens Knippschild 7-6, 6-2. Rios will pass Pete Sampras at the top of the ATP world rankings if he reaches the final in Stuttgart.

Rios, briefly the world No 1 this spring, survived an early break in the first set as the Ger-

man charged the net and hit winners all over the court.

But Rios took control of the match after Knippschild let a 4-1 lead slip away in the tie-break. The German then retreated into a string of errors which he capped by hitting a double-fault at 5-5.

Boris Becker beat the No 9 seed, Cedric Pioline, 7-6, 6-1 in his latest attempt to claim a clay court title. Becker, easing into

retirement, came close two weeks ago at the Swiss Open. But for the sixth time, the three-times Wimbledon winner was found wanting in a clay court final.

"It's the same old song," said Becker. "I can't reach the same level as on hard courts or grass. I always come up one match short."

Yet Becker proved he still has the impressive form he

displayed at the Swiss Open against Pioline, ranked 20th in the world.

The former French Open winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov was among six seeds who did not survive yesterday's second round matches. The Czech Bohdan Ulihrach defeated the Russian No 4 seed, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, while the No 8, Alberto Berasategui of Spain, No 10 Thomas Muster, and No 12

Fabrice Santoro, were also beaten by Guillaume Raoux, Fernando Vicente and Albert Portas respectively.

Germany's Hendrik Dreekmann also upset the 15th-seeded Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, 6-4, 7-5.

Albert Costa of Spain, the No. 6 seed, advanced, however, with a comfortable 6-3, 6-4 defeat of the Argentinean Franco Squilari.

Jayasinghe cleared to run

DRUGS IN SPORT

THE WORLD 200 metres silver medalist, Susanthika Jayasinghe, has been cleared of drug charges on a majority decision from a disciplinary committee appointed by Sri Lanka's Amateur Athletics Association.

Jayasinghe, who won the 200m silver medal at last year's World Championships in Athens, was temporarily suspended from international competition after she failed a random drug test conducted by the International Amateur Athletics Federation in April.

"On totality of the evidence and material placed before us, we are of the view that the [Sri Lanka] AAA has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the alleged doping test offence has been committed by Mrs Jayasinghe," two disciplinary committee members said in a statement. The third member held her guilty of the charge.

Sri Lankan AAA officials were not immediately available for comment, but Sri Lankan radio quoted a committee member as saying that Jayasinghe could now race in international events.

Jayasinghe, who claimed earlier that the positive dope test was a conspiracy against her, said on Wednesday that she welcomed the decision.

"I knew I was not guilty of the charge but because it was a conspiracy against me, I thought they might get away with their accusation," she said.

Jayasinghe became the first Sri Lankan in 49 years to win a medal at an international championship, when she finished ahead of the favourite, Merlene Ottey, in 22.39sec in Athens. The race was won by Zhanna Pintushevich of Ukraine.

England name strong squad for Malaysia

SQUASH

ENGLAND WILL field a strong squad which includes seven players ranked in the world's top 10 as squash makes its Commonwealth Games debut in Malaysia in September.

The reigning world doubles champions, Mark Cairns and Chris Walker, have already been told to forget singles play in the quest for medals, while the British champion, Simon Parke, leads the English challenge for the men's singles title.

Another British champion, Sue Wright, will head the bid for the women's singles gold medal.

Stuart Courtney, the chief executive of the Squash Rackets Association, said: "The long-awaited appearance of squash in the Commonwealth Games will be a tremendous boost for the sport, and we are looking forward to bringing home a number of medals."

ENGLAND SQUASH: Mark Cairns (Oxford), Chris Walker (Leeds), Simon Parke (Leeds), Stuart Courtney (Leeds), Sue Wright (Leeds), Stuart Courtney (Leeds), Stuart Courtney (Leeds), Stuart Courtney (Leeds).

SPORT



ROSE'S FIRST STEPS AS A PRO P27 • PARTY TIME ON TOUR FOR PANTANI P27



Fourth Test: England in need of dashing debut by Lancashire's 20-year-old all-rounder against formidable South Africa

Flintoff poised to enter the fray

BY DEREK PRINGLE

IF EVER there was a time and a place for Alec Stewart to deliver an "England expects..." speech, this morning's England dressing-room, at Trent Bridge is it. Trailing South Africa 1-0, the home side badly need to win this fourth Test to keep the five-match series alive. With the stage to itself, English cricket cannot again find itself wanting, as it has done for much of the summer.

While other sports diverted attention, the England cricket team, the game's "shop window," can claim only a few days of supremacy, including the no-win rearguard action in the previous Test at Old Trafford. Patently, it is not nearly enough to convince an already over-patient public that better days lie ahead.

Things might be worse, and at least the public at Nottingham will be seeing the return of leg-spin as well as the possibility of an exciting, young, all-rounder: Andrew Flintoff, making his debut. Nevertheless, deep seated flaws remain - namely the inability to consistently score big runs and take 20 wickets. Flaws that will continue to prevent England setting both tempo and agenda, two prerequisites for winning Test matches.

England's repeated poor showing at the highest level, stems almost directly from their inability to post a competitive total in their first innings. This is nothing new. Indeed they have failed to pass 200 in the first innings in nine of the last 14 Tests. Poor pitches aside, few teams can even expect to draw, let alone win, with such shaky platforms.

It is not an enviable position for a captain to be in, for although the problem is apparent, the remedies are not. After the briefest of honeymoon periods as skipper, Stewart has probably analysed and discussed the problem a 100 times, a contention he more or less acknowledged yesterday.

"We know that first-innings totals generally set up wins," Stewart said. "Hopefully we can do that here. I try to deal in facts with the players. The boys know what's required. It's up to me to give them a few reminders. Of course I can repeat myself forever, but talk means nothing. It is out in the middle that counts."

England have made several changes. But if some believe they have been panicked into making them, Stewart's line was to call it "tinkering".

If it is merely a question of tinkering rather than wholesale demolition, the first spare part was Robert



The South African batsman Jacques Kallis puts in some last-minute practice for the fourth Test against England, which starts today, in front of the new £7.2m stand at Trent Bridge. Peter Jay

Croft, whose early return to Glamorgan yesterday has meant a comeback for Ian Salisbury. Meanwhile, any off-spin duties that may accrue will be shared between Mark Ramprakash and Graeme Hick, who will bat at five and six respectively.

Salisbury, who along with Stewart and Mark Butcher is a member of Surrey, has been bowling well this season. Indeed, but for a groin injury six weeks' ago, he would probably have been recalled earlier.

"He has a slightly different action after working this winter with Terry Jenner in Australia," Stewart said. "I believe he understands his art much better now and is more confident and mature as a bloke as well as a leg-spinner. Certainly he is much more relaxed in the Test environment this time round."

Even so, having Salisbury as your sole front-line spinner is a high risk policy. The leg-spinner may be bowling well for Surrey, but

there he has Saqlain Mushtaq to take the pressure off him. On what looks to be a well-grassed pitch, there will be no hiding place once the seam bowlers get tired.

As ever, England will wait to see how the pitch and conditions scrub up this morning, before finalising their bowling attack. Yesterday, as Sir Garfield Sobers opened the impressive £7.2m Radcliffe Road Stand in blazing sunshine, the pitch was still ominously being kept under covers.

This means that someone wants moisture to be retained in the surface, a situation that ought to favour seam over swing. Either way, the return of Shaun Pollock, who slips into the place vacated by the injured Lance Klusener, will not make life easier for England's top order.

If Flintoff plays, and he should do, a seaming pitch could mean Angus Fraser plays in front of Alan Mullally, though the left-arm will at least - especially at this time of season -

bring a fresh angle, if not a fresh body.

At the moment, Flintoff, who is a burly 6ft 5in tall, is regarded as a batsman who bowls, which is where he scored in selection over Ben Hollis, who is now apparently a bowler who bats. As such, Flintoff's role as fourth seamer would probably not require more than 10 to 12 overs a day, an ideal amount to wear a newcomer on.

If it is reasonable to cut debutants

some slack, there will no such leeway for Hick. Playing in place of the injured Graham Thorpe, Hick knows he is on borrowed time unless he can score heavily. He has done so before against this South African attack, most notably in the rain-soaked Test at Centurion Park three winters' ago, where he made a century. What would both he and England give for a repeat performance over the next few days?

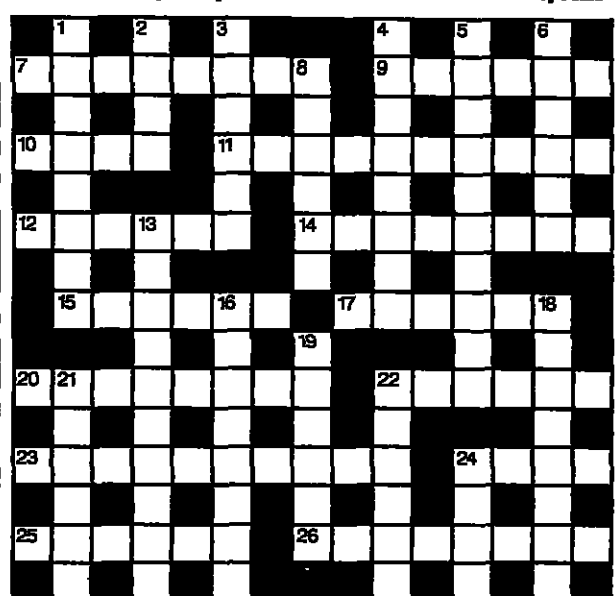
County reports, page 23

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3678, Thursday 23 July

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



WATER OF FISH
TENNESSEE GAZER
E B N C I N E A
REAP SUNGLASSES
L Y C D H T H
COMBLO MANGWI
E E E R V B
PRIMED SLEEPER
S E E S H O
TUNING FOR MESA
U O N I A M N C
O U C H I A H K M A T I
I N N A O T E
O P E R E T T A A T H E N S

ACROSS

- 7 Smart masking Queen, on left, with Ace (8)
9 Paramount's first film actor (6)
10 Iced bend (4)
11 A balanced hand should win this game (10)
12 Bone a fish, almost the lot (6)
14 Fabulous time absorbed in baking (8)
15 Cheap American dope's hooked old bachelor (3-3)
17 Shower, and it's hot (6)
20 Harsh step, not heartless (8)
22 Protective cover about pipe (6)

DOWN

- 23 Marine creature seen in trailing plant (10)
24 Pale one, deficient (4)
25 Striking with cue (6)
26 Girl evoking devotion without measure (8)
1 Persevering with Law, maybe, in Institute (8)
2 Bird from reduced flock (4)
3 Gaudy vessels, the Spanish (6)
4 Fruit around Australia gets approval (8)
5 Conservative in Japan involved with sake, fresh one (10)
6 Number, in a state, flag (6)

8 Cooks short of fifty English fish (6)

- 13 Conditions favouring mirages (10)
16 This food's giving one chappie upset bile (8)
18 Cowboy managed busting chore (8)
19 Shipman gets lash, right, at last? (6)
21 Model reportedly with trendy clip (6)
22 Fold suit about to be packed (6)
24 Host's crazy - without a drop of beer (4)

Argentinians on the way to Palace

FOOTBALL
By ALAN NIXON

TERRY VENABLES is poised to sign two Argentinian youngsters Christian Ledesma and Pablo Rodriguez in a joint deal worth £2.5m.

Venables hopes to tie up the South Americans today with both players flying in from Argentina Juniors.

Midfield player Ledesma is rated at £2m and considered one of the best players at his age in the country. Winger Rodriguez is coming on loan for a year and valued at £500,000 if Palace want to sign him later.

Ledesma and Rodriguez are the latest players to emerge from Argentinian Juniors, who are well known as a nursery club. The pair have represented their country at under-21 level and could represent a shrewd investment by Palace who could sell them on in the future if they make the grade.

The transfer has been in the pipeline since the former England manager took over at Selhurst Park. Venables originally wanted Diego Maric, another Argentinian Juniors prospect, but he would not come to a First Division club.

Rodriguez was reluctant to go to Palace on his own at first but the signing of Ledesma has persuaded him to make the move.

The Everton manager, Walter Smith, is set to sign French midfielder Olivier Dacort in a

£3m deal today. Smith was locked in talks with the talented Strasbourg player last night as an Everton delegation flew to France hoping to finalise the transfer.

Dacort impressed Smith last season when he was outstanding as Strasbourg knocked his Rangers side - and Liverpool - out of Europe. Smith has kept a keen eye on Dacort since and moved in last night as he tries to put his second major signing in place.

Dacort is on the fringe of the France squad but is tipped to emerge in the wake of the World Cup success and establish himself as a regular. He is a powerful player similar to Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit, a strong defensive player who operates down the left hand side of the field.

Smith wants extra power in his engine room and the signing of Dacort, who is also admired by Newcastle, would help to build up his squad.

The Everton manager is also keen on signing Monaco's John Collins, but feels the price tag is too high and the Scottish midfielder man is prepared to wait until his contract runs out next summer.

The Merseyside team are also interested in Cameroon's Marc-Vivien Foe, who is currently in negotiations with Manchester United.

Coventry are set to spend the £2m they received for the Romanian striker Viorel Moldovan on another World Cup player. The Sky Blues have

refused to reveal their intended target, but their chairman, Bryan Richardson, believes the player could be at Highfield Road by the weekend.

"We are on the tail of a major signing which we hope to have tied up by Thursday or Friday of this week," said Richardson. "We are only interested in top, top international players of World Cup class."

The former Leeds and Everton player Ian Snodin has taken his first steps into management by being named as Doncaster Rovers' new manager.

Snodin, 34, is returning to the club where he started his career as a trainee in 1980. After moving to Leeds from Belle Vue, the utility player won a championship medal at Goodison Park in 1986-87 before enjoying spells with Sunderland, Oldham and, most recently, Third Division Scarborough. Doncaster were relegated to the Vauxhall Conference last season.

A mystery consortium is to take over First Division Oxford United. The managing director, Keith Cox, has revealed that the consortium, who have not been identified, have signed a contract to buy the 89 per cent shareholding of the former chairman Robin Herd.

The deal is conditional on a satisfactory agreement being reached with Oxford City Council and Taylor Woodrow, who were building Oxford's new stadium before work stopped in January 1997.

Football, page 26

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THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

When the Swiss banks released a list of safety deposit boxes from before and during the Second World War, Ron Rosenbaum found it hard to suppress a frisson of excitement. Maybe, just maybe, somewhere behind a three-inch-thick steel door in an underground vault deep below the city streets of Zurich or Geneva, the truth was hidden. Maybe the secret he was seeking was there, still kept under lock and key after 50 years. Maybe.

As he freely admits, the very idea that his 10-year quest to explain the motivations and nature of Adolf Hitler might be ended by some lost file was "not a realistic expectation". There are many secrets rumoured to be stashed away in Switzerland – the case notes on Hitler's mysterious blindness of 1918; alleged pornographic pictures of his half-niece Geli Raubal, who supposedly committed suicide – but nothing could ever fully explain the man or his actions.

This frisson gives us a clue to what lies behind the search for the psyche of a man who still commands a deadly fascination for scholars and the rest of us. We do not understand Hitler, and we desperately want to – need to, even, find a reason why a man could lead a nation into war and genocide.

"These lost safe deposit stories clearly serve as expressions of anxiety about – and talismans against – an otherwise apparently inexplicable malignant evil," writes Rosenbaum. And that is something that, in our rationalistic, ordered universe, we find hard to accept.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL

Mr Rosenbaum has produced a finely wrought investigation not just of his subject, Hitler, but also of the idea of evil itself and its place in our world. Much of the critical response has been negative – including *The Independent's* review – but the fact is, he was exploring a minefield, and he knew it from the start. He watched Daniel Goldhagen, the historian who, in his landmark book *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, had blamed the German nation itself for the Holocaust, being torn apart in a four-hour panel discussion. Claude Lanzmann, maker of the nine-hour documentary film *Shoah*, told him that to write or even think about Hitler was wrong.

"I think it is to be condemned," he said. To attempt to reconstruct the man and his motives should be beyond anyone. "Hier ist kein Warum." (Here there is no why), Lanzmann wrote, an idea he shares with many others.

If for one group of people the very act of explanation is betrayal, tantamount almost to murder itself, then for another, the idea of evil is incommensurable with modern social science, a relic of theology that we must do without, or simply inapplicable in this case. Rosenbaum was launched into his pursuit of evil by an interview with Lord Dacre, author of *The Last Days of Hitler*. Dacre himself was threatened with death by the Stern Gang, the Zionist underground guerrilla group, for – in their view – exalting Hitler, putting him at the centre of the Holocaust story. Rosenbaum asked him whether he thought Hitler knew that his actions were evil, and got an interesting reply. "Oh no," Dacre said firmly. "Hitler was convinced of his own rectitude."

Ironically, his question coincided with a murder much closer to our own times. As he talked with Lord Bullock, the other great British historian of Hitler, the newspapers were reporting the trial of two boys who had taken two-year-old Jamie Bulger from a Liverpool shopping centre, beaten him to death and left his body by a railway line. "Unparalleled evil," the judge called it. Was Hitler evil, then? He asked Bullock, and received a quite different response. "If he isn't evil, who is?" Bullock responded.

This is the terrain that Rosenbaum stakes out, similar to that of Gitta Sereny's examination of Mary Bell, or Blake Morrison's of Bulger's killers. Is this evil? And if it is not, what is? Between these two points – that Hitler is inexplicable, and that Hitler is explicable only in terms of something else, history, psychology or sociology – Rosenbaum plots his course.

It is a disturbing journey, and not just because of the subject matter. The more that he explains, and investigates, the more is left unexplained. Hitler's personal history is a warren of dark corners and secrets, each of which has been at one time or another elevated into the secret "key" to his psyche: the mystery of his grandfather and the family name, the strange relationship with his niece and the circumstances of her "suicide", his sexual life, war service, the time in Vienna – nothing seems certain. The documentation is all deeply suspect, including the vast dossier prepared by the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the CIA. To some extent Rosenbaum provides an archaeology of these grey facts, each of which is as unreliable as the evidence that it is based upon. "I was almost literally digging in that last carton of OSS documents," he says.

In his farthest reach backwards into Hitler's history, he seeks the village of Doloresheim, where Hitler's grandmother became pregnant by – someone. The father's name on the birth certificate is blank, and the candidates have varied between a close relative and one of the Rothschilds. In the deep Austrian midwinter, he finds nothing but a ruined landscape, the villages having been destroyed by either the Germans or the Russians, depending on which source he consults. There is nothing to rely on, nothing upon which to found a theory, but ruins and rumours.

After a decade in the morass of Hitler scholarship, Rosenbaum himself emerges ultimately unconvicted, unable quite to get a grasp on the man. "The more I spent examining these ques-



EXTRACT FROM EXPLAINING HITLER BY RON ROSENBAUM

For Claude Lanzmann, director of *Shoah*, the attempt to explain Hitler is not merely futile but immoral – he calls the very enterprise of understanding obscene.

"There are some pictures of Hitler as a baby, too, aren't there? He has said. There is even a book written... about Hitler's childhood, an attempt at explanation which is for me obscenity as such."

Obscenity? I tried to explore with Lanzmann the strength of conviction that would compel him to use "obscurity" as a term of abuse for investigators who, however, misguided they might be, were at least well-intentioned. Why should the maker of a nine-and-a-half-hour documentary on Hitler's death camps become so incensed about a book on Hitler's childhood? What was it about the baby pictures? I sensed they disturbed, they scandalised him not because they conjure up a specific theory of Hitler's childhood, but because they give us Hitler as an innocent, Hitler before he becomes Hitler. "a Hitler without victims", as the phrase coined by the scholar Alvin Rosenfeld has it. A Hitler whose baby-faced innocence lures us down the path Lanzmann condemns, seduces us into constructing explanations for the evolution of innocent child into mass murderer – explanations that are, Lanzmann argues, inevitably obscene rationalisations, not merely exculpations but virtually justification for Hitler's behaviour.

That particular baby picture in question looks like it was taken when Hitler was less than two years old... we see a round faced, ruddy-cheeked child, a mildly pensive cherub. We could, considering what we know of what became of him, "backshadow" (the useful term coined by the scholar Michael André Bernstein...) into his dark, questioning eyes, into those lips pursed into what looks like a pout or a frown, a premonitory, melancholy, even a haunted and hurt expression. We could project upon the impressionable baby face the stirrings of some deep emotional disturbance... But we could just as easily see there not incipient demonism but a kind of gentleness and sensitivity. We could just as easily predict this child would turn out to be Albert Schweitzer.

'Explaining Hitler, the Search for the Origins of his Evil' (Macmillan, £25)

Evil

The century's most reviled figure remains its greatest mystery. Perhaps we prefer Adolf Hitler that way.

Better to think of him as a one-dimensional genocidal

maniac. Better still not to think of him at all. But the author Ron Rosenbaum believes Hitler has been out of mind too long. We must discover how the child grew into the monster. If we do not, how can we understand the darkest side of human nature?

tion the less confident I felt of the answers," he says. "It is troubling to spend 10 years and think that there may not be an ultimate answer."

Sometimes he seems paralysed by self-doubt, as he speaks and as he writes. He is Jewish, as he duly notes in the book. "As I was examining the agenda of the explainers, I didn't want to conceal my cards on the table," he says, and that has led him to interrogate himself on his researches. "I do wonder... whether my own background influences my view of it." Others whom he met have not always been so scrupulous.

Faced with such vast, deliberate destruction of human life, it seems that uncertainty is, in a way, the only rational response. But everyone else Rosenbaum spoke to during the decade felt that they had certainty in the palm of their hand, he says, including Simon Wiesenthal, the veteran Nazi-hunter who is convinced that Hitler caught a sexual disease from a Jewish prostitute in Vienna. As Rosenbaum points out, there is not a shred of evidence for this, or any explanation why it should drive a man to genocide, and yet Wiesenthal is rock solid in his conviction.

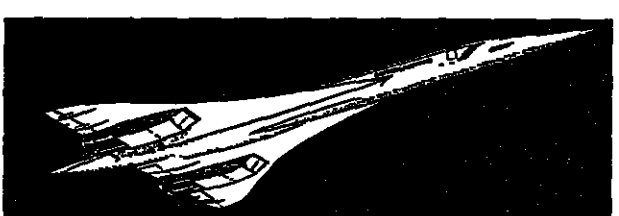
"Everyone has a theory. Everyone feels they have the answer," he says. He himself does not.

And yet if there is one thing that shines through, it is that Rosenbaum wants to resuscitate evil, to return it to us as a concrete fact of life. Modern history has tended increasingly to judge Hitler as the nexus of forces far greater than him. "A lot of people who have studied Hitler are reluctant to think of him as evil," he says. But as he adumbrates the endless theories – the sexual secrets, the "one ball" theory, the "billy goat bite theory" (that part of Hitler's penis was bitten off), the dark family mysteries and so on – it is hard not to agree that as more is explained, the act of murder on a vast scale becomes obscured. As we explain away human personality – reduce it to biology or some obscure set of Freudian desires – we demean it, we demean ourselves and we demean those who have suffered at the hands of others.

Rosenbaum sums up his own intentions in terms of negatives and oppositions, of resistance to certain ideas and moral attractions. "Not to resist all or any enquiry, not to resist thought,

but to resist the misleading exculpatory corollaries of explanation. To resist the way explanation can become evasion or consolation, a way of making Hitler's choice to do what he did less unbearable, less hateful to contemplate, by shifting responsibility from him to faceless abstractions, inexorable forces, or irresistible compulsions that gave him no choice... To resist making the kind of explanatory excuses for Hitler that permit him to escape, that grant him the posthumous victory of a last laugh."

He seems dark, depressed by his own labours. "It's taken me some time to recover from the close proximity to these kind of dark matters," he says. "It has been difficult to recover a sense of perspective." He is also troubled by the uncertainty of his results. He confesses that sometimes he thinks, "Maybe you should spend 10 more years." He is toying with another project, on another individual regarded as outside the normal continuum of human activity. William Shakespeare. "It would be a relief to... study the greatest and most inspiring products of civilisation," he says with a dry smile.



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EDUCATION & FAST TRACK

Islamic marriage

Sir: It should be clearly pointed out that "forced marriages" are not allowed in Islam ("Huge rise in forced marriages", 20 July; "The arrangement, 21 July"). The free and willing consent of both a man and woman as prospective husband and wife are a condition of a valid marriage. The Prophet Muhammad advised prospective spouses to see each other's faces to allow the natural forces of emotion and attraction to take root.

Any violation of this basic principle goes against the grain of the Islamic Sharia and is unjust. If something is unjust, it cannot be Islamic. Also, if something is immoral and obscene, it cannot be Islamic. If something is harmful to the individual and society, it is not sanctioned by Islam.

The purpose of Islam is to make marriage easy for people and to lay down the conditions where married life can be enjoyed to the fullest. Clearly, not all marriages, whether "love" or "arranged" marriages, prove to be happy and Islam makes it easy, recommending reconciliation procedures, for either party to terminate an intolerable marriage. Contrary to the impression given in *The Independent*, a woman has the right to seek dissolution of a marriage. A woman at the time of the Prophet had her marriage dissolved even though she affirmed that her husband was a good and pious man. She just did not like him.

There are no doubt abuses of Islamic requirements by Muslims but the provisions of the law are there to eliminate abuses and injustice. Judges should be alive to these purposes of the law and people like Yasmin, if the story told is true, should be able to seek proper redress. We should not, however, assume that lurking in the breast of every Muslim parent of a teenage daughter is a repressive monster. Parents are sensitive and worry about the happiness of their children. **ABDULWAHID HAMID**
Media Committee, The Muslim Council of Britain
Harrow, Middlesex

IVF is last resort

Sir: I am a man of 33. I can think of hundreds of material reasons why I can live without children. However, along with the majority of human beings, I realise the satisfaction and purpose in my life is to be found through bringing up another person into this world. Unfortunately, nature has decreed that this is not possible.

My wife and I have therefore decided to commission an expert to create one for us. We cannot be cured but our expert can circumvent the problem. With the assistance of a middle man we have replaced old-fashioned sex. My wife, instead, can enjoy the physical and mental discomfort of daily injections, hormone treatment, regular vaginal scans, enemas and ultimately physical egg collection. I merely have the joy of producing sperm to order in a cubicle-sized room (will my child lack a sense of identity because I was looking at the *Mayfair* babe of the month and not my wife?).

If we are lucky our sperm and egg will be fertilised in a petri dish. Then the fertilised egg can be replaced into my wife. At this stage nature takes over again and there is only a 25 per cent chance of pregnancy occurring. This means, in all probability, we will go through this experience another three times.

What on earth is Jacqueline Laing ("What's love got to do with it?", 21 July) getting at? We know we have no right to a child, just as we have no right to a long healthy life. However, we do have a right to make use of the medical advances available. There will always be difficult moral questions on the edge of science.

IVF is a desperately difficult experience and to suggest that couples who have to resort to this route are just looking for a commodity or have been taken in

by the sales talk is deeply insulting.
JOHN JOSEPH
Teddington, Middlesex

Colonial frontiers

Sir: Once more we see images of starvation and despair from southern Sudan. They are so familiar because of the unwillingness of the Organisation of African Unity to redraw colonial frontiers.

Over the last 40 years, millions have died in wars in Biafra, Katanga, Eritrea and Sudan about the independence of ethnic minorities. If people in Juba do not want government from Khartoum, why should they be forced to accept it? Without government by consent there is no hope of controlling militias, so the application of democratic principles should be required here as in other parts of the world.

This would mean the UN taking on what the OAU should have done many years ago - to convene a conference at which claims to redraw boundaries can be worked through, on the principle of mutual consent.
PAUL KELLY
London E9

B6 ban outrage

Sir: I was delighted to see the Agriculture Select Committee's report on vitamin B6, but I was horrified to read (report, 20 July) that Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, has convinced the Prime Minister to go ahead with the plans to ban large doses of Vitamin B6.

Is this outrageous action yet another example of a minister flouting proper procedures? I was under the impression that Ministry of Agriculture officials had not yet made their final recommendations to the minister

and that the minister had not yet formally responded to the select committee's report. How then can it be that at this early stage, decisions are already being made which fly in the face of a cross-party committee's advice? I can only assume that Mr Cunningham has been partaking of that other contentious foodstuff - beef on the bone.
IAN BOND
Benenden, Kent

Workers' rights

Sir: You report (6 July) the suggestion that businesses could be made more liable for unfair dismissal and other obligations toward the workers of outside contractors, under proposals in the Government's *Fairness at Work* White Paper. The suggestion is both alarmist and total nonsense.

Our White Paper proposes a

new power enabling the Government to give suitable employment rights to those workers who do not have them because their relationship with their work provider does not constitute a contract of employment. This would clear up any doubts about people's employment status in relation to their work provider. It would not make anyone else liable.

At present many vulnerable "atypical" workers slip through the safety net of employment rights. The Government is concerned to ensure that decent minimum standards apply to all. It is in the interests of both employers and employees that greater flexibility in working patterns and contractual arrangements is reflected in the employment rights legislation.

The White Paper makes it clear that the Government would carry out full public consultation on the

detail of any changes before exercising the proposed new power.
IAN MCCARTNEY MP
Minister of State
Department of Trade and Industry
London SW1

Engineers ignored

Sir: It was refreshing to read the letter from C J E Morris (17 July). One waits in vain for the media to give engineers and engineering the recognition they deserve.

Editors and programme makers simply do not understand that much of what is reported as scientific achievement is either the work of engineers or is only made possible by advances in engineering. Electron microscopes, interplanetary probes, particle accelerators and great telescopes are all classic examples of wonderful

engineering without which great science could not be done. On a more down-to-earth level, engineering has brought us the communications revolution, information technology, safe air and land transport, many of the tools of modern medicine and all of the technology which underpins economic progress and is mostly taken for granted.

Why is the latest exhibition of non-art at the Tate thought to be so much more interesting?

It is no accident that the economy is becoming seriously short of high-calibre engineers. Schools do not understand engineering, the media do not understand engineering, and other professions are glorified ad infinitum in television series.
Dr ALAN CRIBBENS
Belper, Derbyshire

Tsunami warning

Sir: A 10-metre high tidal wave, or tsunami, triggered by an undersea earthquake some 30 kilometres offshore has killed 3,000 people in Papua New Guinea. This was unpredictable and unavoidable.

An oceanic asteroid or comet impact could produce a tsunami as high as the impactor's own diameter - up to one kilometre high. Such an event would destroy most cities on Earth.

This is not unpredictable; a worldwide space tracking programme, costing maybe £10m per year, could detect over 90 per cent of potential impactors within 10 years, and then keep them tracked, giving us months, or in some cases, years of warning.

We should take the tsunami of Papua as a miniature warning of the eventual price of ignoring our celestial environment, and prepare to take our place in the wider Universe!
MICHAEL MARTIN-SMITH
Hull

Curbing the car

Sir: Your editorial (21 July) argues that the Government's proposed charge on car parking spaces will just be passed on to the consumer or the employee. This ignores the most obvious response to the tax, which is to cut parking provision and use the space more productively.

The CBI headquarters in London recently reduced its parking provision by half after discovering how much it cost on the rate bill. A transparent tax on parking would stimulate many more businesses to rationalise the space they give for cars.

Many people commute into central areas by car because they are assured of a free parking space at the end of their journey. If they were less certain of this public transport would become a more attractive option. Far from being a blunt instrument, as some have described it, a charge on workplace parking spaces is a very targeted, journey-specific measure.

CHRIS HEWETT
Research Fellow
Institute for Public Policy Research
London WC2E

Sir: In the debate this week about the car culture, the root cause of our traffic problems is rarely mentioned. That is, that we now tend to live miles away from our place of work. One- or two-hour drives to work are commonplace, whereas 50 years ago most people lived within walking distance of their work. Public transport alone is not going to correct this problem as most people now live more than one public transport stop away from work.

The only thing that is going to solve the UK's traffic problem is a major shift in our habits of choosing where to live. This could take 50 years. People are unlikely to start living closer to their work unless there is some financial imperative to do so.

PAUL WALTER
Newbury,
Berkshire

Sir: There is one measure that would solve the problem of road congestion at one very easy and incredibly cheap stroke. It would save huge sums for industry and the trade balance, save a great number of lives, save vast amounts of road maintenance and at the same time provide an enormous boost to rail travel for both people and goods.

Unfortunately it would probably spark a genuinely classless revolution. It is, of course, to impose a speed limit of 30mph on all motorways and a 20mph limit everywhere else. Engine sizes would fall, pollution drop and we'd all go by train or bike.
TONY MICHAELS
London NW3

Sir: Of course the Deputy Prime Minister ("He came by Tube, he left by car... the man who'll make drivers pay", 21 July) does not travel everywhere by Tube, bus or even executive bicycle for that matter! I, for one, would be very disappointed if his work rate on our behalf was subject to the vagaries of public transport. This does not undermine the value of this hugely important policy initiative one little bit.

MICHAEL LEE-WRIGHT
London SE1

Send for a real tsar

Sir: Come now! Everyone knows that the exemplary tsar referred to in such phrases as "drugs tsar" (letter, 21 July) was not the gentle Nicholas II but Peter the Great, a man who really knew how to kick ass and get things done. In the case of drug dealers he would have had them publicly flogged to death en masse before beheading their corpses and flinging the remains into the Volga. In view of this, "drugs pussy-foot" might be a more appropriate description of the modern job.
ROGER PAYNE
Belper, Derbyshire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Continuing our series on Butlin's Somerset World, two redcoats apply their make-up for a lunchtime show in the Crazy Horse Saloon Bar. **John Voos**
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IN BRIEF

Researching my *Maurice Ravel* (Phaidon Press, 1996), I found evidence of several problems - including the dementia that stopped him writing in the last three years of his life - but nothing resembling "paranoid or schizotypal traits".

Dr Chadwick might be right about Van Gogh but (although I have made no special study in this case) Igor Stravinsky surely does not qualify to be ranked alongside him as a victim of mental illness.
GERALD LARNER
Alderley Edge, Cheshire

Sir: The last decade was known, simply enough, as the Eighties. This decade is the Nineties. Is there an agreed name for the next?
EDWARD TURNER
Sudbury, Suffolk

even if they have one I bet it's obscure". Well, try <http://www.church-of-england.org>, which has links to 23 diocesan websites, each of which contains links to parish websites. He concludes with the suggestion, "What all of them should do is re-read the Bible, kneel down in their churches and pray to God for help." No wonder these advertising people charge so much, when they have such original ideas!
MICHAEL WOOD
Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire

Sir: The list of the "100 best novels of the century" (report, 21 July) will doubtless be berated for its American and male bias. What about its pre-1980 bias, though? I counted only *Midnight's Children* (1981). So what about *Updike*, *In the Beauty of the Lilies*, *DM Thomas*, *The White Hotel*, *Ishiguro*, *The Remains of the Day*, *Bellow*, *More Die of Heartbreak*, *Burgess*, *Earthly Powers*, *Lorrie Moore*, *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?*, *Brookner*, *Look at Me*, not to mention Martin Amis, Julian Barnes or Jeanette Winterson?
ROBERT STEIN
Barnet, Hertfordshire

Sir: What makes Peter Chadwick ("Are schizophrenics the lepers of our time", 21 July) think that Ravel was schizophrenic?

Sexy headline writer gets my wife steamed up, says Miles

WHEN MY wife was working for BBC TV in Bristol, she made a documentary on the world of prostitution in and around Bristol, and I don't think I have ever seen her so constantly cross and upset. She hated the economic background that drove a lot of the girls on the streets. She was furious at the violence and blackmail practised by the pimps on their girls. She found the obtuseness of the police maddening. She was above all infuriated by the stupidity of the laws, passed by ignorant or uncaring white middle class males in Parliament, which made what the girls did a crime but let the male customers off the hook.

The last time I saw her cross in the same sort of way was yesterday, when she picked up a *Daily Telegraph* and saw the headline:

"Childminder Who Killed Baby Was A Prostitute".

"What is that meant to mean?" she demanded. "Childminder... Babykiller... Prostitute... What message are we meant to pick up from that? That a girl who has been a prostitute is more likely to kill babies? That if you have ever been a prostitute, you are unfit to look after children? I met young girls in Bristol who had gone on the game simply because they had young children to support and could find no other way of getting the money to do it. They had actually become prostitutes to make a better job of looking after children! Do you think the headline-writer of the *Daily Telegraph* had thought of that?"

Gulp. No, I didn't. I am sure the headline-writer thought of what headline-writers always think of: 1.

Can I get a dreadful pun in? 2. Can I make the story sound sexy?

The best way to make a story sound sexy and wicked is to put two words in which seem to clash. "Vicar" and "vice", for instance. "Police" and "corruption". "Priest" and "abuse". "Government" and "apologise". "England cricketers" and "win"... So "childminder" and "prostitute" sound good together - the trusted lady who looks after our children twinned with the wicked, wicked woman who is the scum of society.

Except, of course, that it doesn't add up when you start to think about it. Prostitutes are, I would guess, unusually law-abiding. The rules are stacked against them so much that they have to be extra-careful not to break them. When they get involved in crime - real

something that is done to them. Prostitutes are occasionally beaten up, even murdered. They do not go in for violence and murder themselves. I cannot ever remember reading a case in which a prostitute was accused of murder. Child-minders, yes, and nannies, and au pairs, and nurses, and even children themselves. They quite often find themselves accused of murder. Was Louise Woodward a nanny or a prostitute? Were the women found guilty of murder in Saudi Arabia nurses or prostitutes? If I were to be wary of any profession it would have to be of the caring professions, those people who look after children and old people and sick people, and who tend to adopt murder as a hobby in a way which prostitutes don't.

Incidentally, while we are on the

subject of knee-jerk reactions, the annual display of Edinburgh Festival shock horror has started again. There is always an informal contest to see which new show at the Fringe can put out the sort of publicity which will outrage the locals and lead to a call for its banning.

I duly saw a *Daily Record* the other day which reported that a play based on Myra Hindley, going into the Gilded Balloon, had outraged local councillors. The *Daily Record* had also arranged for the mother of one of Hindley's victims to express outrage.

The usual storm in a teacup, in fact. Indeed, the play sounded pretty serious and unsensational to me, but I haven't read it. Nor, it was clear, had the *Daily Record* or the councillor or the mother of Hindley's victim. What mattered was the

froth of shock, and horror, and outrage - the very idea that any serious art could be based on something so wicked as a murderer who is still alive.

"I don't think it's that, actually," my wife said, when I showed her the piece about Myra Hindley to take her mind off the *Daily Telegraph*. "It's the fact that it's a female murderer and one who killed children. Remember the fuss about Mary Bell? Extraordinary. Remember the fuss about the film based on Christie, *10 Rillington Place*?"

"There wasn't any fuss about it," I said. "Exactly," she said. "It was a male murderer. Hence no fuss." I'm not so sure. I think it was the fact that Christie had never been a prostitute.



MILES KINGTON
"Childminder Who Killed Baby Was A Prostitute" - what is that meant to mean?

crime, not the pathetic bureaucratic regulation-breaking of prostitution - it is not something they do, but

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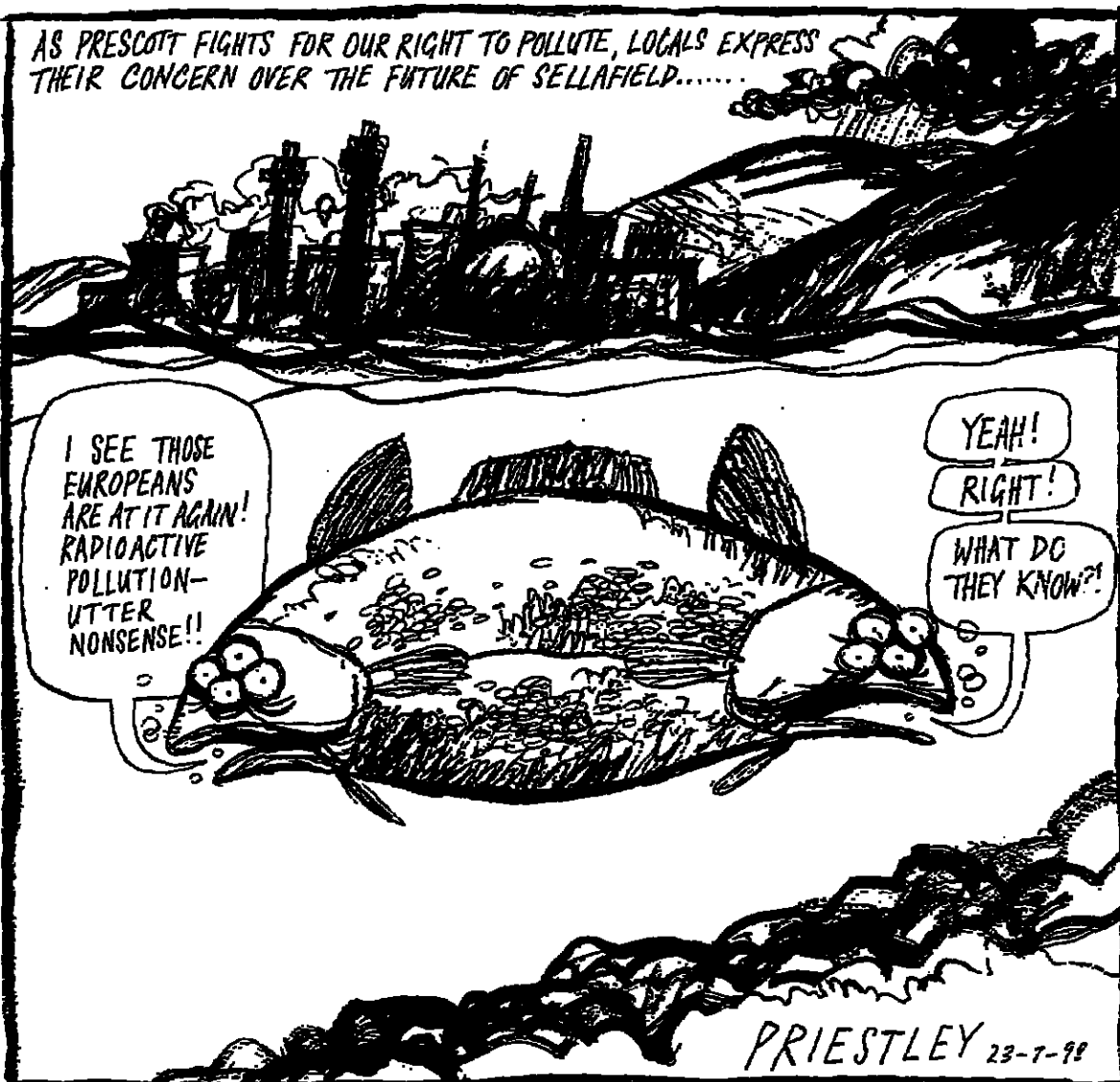
A simple solution for Sellafield: shut it down

WHEN THE nuclear complex at Sellafield, then called Windscale, was opened by the Queen in 1956, it was supposed to usher in a new era of clean, free electricity for all. The terrifying destructive power unleashed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki just over a decade before was to be harnessed instead for the good of mankind. It was "atoms for peace" in the phrase of the time, with Britain in the vanguard. By the Sixties, the scientists had turned their attention to a new technology - reprocessing spent nuclear waste. This was supposed to provide a useful source of fresh fuel for the new generation of "fast breeder" reactors. You could not get more "white heat of technology" than that.

Unfortunately, the programme for fast breeders soon turned into a recipe for failure. With it went a good part of the rationale for the whole Sellafield enterprise. The techniques of reprocessing were diverted into cleaning up the rest of the world's nuclear muck. By the Eighties, when Mrs Thatcher - in her brief green phase - was unconvincedly promoting nuclear power as environmentally friendly, the game should have been up. And yet Sellafield survived.

The truth about Sellafield is that it always had a military function; it has, since the first major accident in 1957, been unsafe and, now that we are all better informed about these things, its routine operations have clearly damaged the environment. The clusters of leukaemia cases around the plant have long caused disquiet. Like an incontinent old pet (and a not much loved one at that), it has been dribbling its nuclear discharge into the sea for decades and now, finally, the Irish, the Norwegians, the Danes and anyone else who has put up with the pollution drifting with the currents of the North Sea have had enough. At the Ospar convention on the environment in Portugal, where the Government is represented by John Prescott, these nations have been right to ask for the emissions to cease. BNFL, which runs Sellafield, tells us that reducing them to zero is not possible. There is a simple answer to that. Close the plant.

For all its appalling record, the nucleus of the Sellafield problem is not environmental or even technical. It is economic and political. It is the challenge of what can be done about the loss of 10,000 jobs, the immensely profitable foreign contracts, abandoning multi-billion-pound investments and neglecting what is, after all, a rich reserve of nuclear skills.



These issues are not trivial. They are, however, problems that have been faced before in the case of the steel industry, car making, and, most traumatically, coal. There is an environmental imperative attached to nuclear pollution which does, in effect, subordinate all other questions. As a nation it may well prove expensive for us to live up to our environmental aspirations. It may mean that we have to make some sacrifices to ensure that communities are not economically devastated and the scientific talents of those who devoted their lives to the industry are redeployed. (One very useful use of their skills would be to advise

ern European countries about safety in their own decrepit installations.)

Mr Prescott has indicated that he hopes to achieve an agreement in the talks in Portugal that will result in a reduction - but not an elimination - in the harmful emissions. This is not an unworthy aim and may, in fact, be the best that can be achieved. But none of this precludes unilateral action and steps to wind down this embarrassing operation. Sellafield has outlived its usefulness as surely as an exhausted coalmine. Some of the old pits have been turned into theme parks. The time has now come to turn Sellafield into a nuclear museum piece.

Give Russia the benefit of the debt

EUROPE'S LONGEST-running financial high-wire act, the negotiations over the \$11.2bn International Monetary Fund loan to Russia, seems finally to have come to an end with Boris Yeltsin departing on holiday with a well-satisfied grin. "Absolute victory" is how Sergei Kiriyenko, Russia's prime minister hailed it, declaring that the decision to approve the loan this week represented the seal of good economic house-keeping approval on his government's programme.

Well, yes and no. The simple reality is that the West is continuing to lend large - and increasing - sums to Russia because it is afraid not to. Yeltsin has been as adept as his predecessor, Mikhail Gorbachev, at presenting the bogeyman alternative. Like the famous Keynesian quip, too, Russia is the country which owes the bankers so much that they are in its power, not the other way round.

Final agreement on the loan doesn't mean all is well with the Moscow Ministry of Finance. Yeltsin's government is still a long way away from performing the tasks which even the poorest African nations have had to perform before receiving a morsel from the rich world's table. Come another few years, Moscow will no doubt be back with the begging bowl. Even so, the loan is probably worth it. Not because it helps keep the forces of darkness at bay. It is long past the time that the West should keep supporting Boris Yeltsin for fear of the alternatives. East European experience suggests that even restoring the communists can be beneficial, if only to show democratically how little they have to offer.

But the IMF loan should be welcomed as helping Russia along a path it has travelled surprisingly far. Just as in Eastern Europe, change is happening more painfully but more quickly than any had expected. What the West needs to do is to stop fussing about the money and think about how it should fit into NATO and the Economic Union.

Never-ending game

JUST WHEN you thought it was safe to get off the sofa or even take a holiday, Crystal Palace opened the new football season in a "prequalifying" UEFA Cup match last Sunday. Yesterday, Celtic and Rangers played European qualifiers. The real season starts in two weeks with the Charity Shield - Arsenal versus Manchester United. Is there a danger that life may start to infringe on our football? It appears not.

At last, Dr Carey comes out and exposes himself in a poor light

AS I WRITE this, I do not know whether the House of Lords has voted down the Government's Crime and Disorder Bill, and - if they have - whether they have forced the withdrawal of the section equalising the gay male and heterosexual ages of consent.

But I do know that if either the Bill itself is delayed, or the clause is lost, then we have - above all - the Archbishop of Canterbury to thank for it. For, as Anglican bishops from all over the globe - from Sudan to Pakistan - came together at Lambeth to discuss their church and their world, the Archbishop was appearing in print to fulminate against lowering the gay age of consent.

At least, that is what I think he was doing. It is also what the sub-editors on *The Times* thought he was doing, giving his article (appearing in place of Alan Coren's humorous column) the sub-heading "George Carey says only a sick society allows gay sex at 16". My hesitation is due to the piece being constructed out of these same gnomes utterances that obscured the subject of the ordination of women for so long.

What are we to make of this sentence, that the criminal law affecting human sexual relationships "needs to be looked at in the context of an overall vision of what we want a morally healthy society to look like"? Does this mean, you may wonder, that we cannot deal with the age of consent until we have decided on how to redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor, or whether we should be citizens or subjects? Or are these not "moral" issues?

Or try this: "I have been encour-

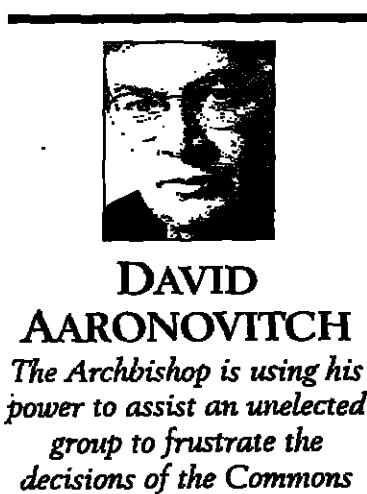
aged," writes the Archbishop, "by the fact that so many people inside and outside Parliament have welcomed the emphasis we have placed on the need for a sustainable moral framework - that is, one based on traditional Christian principles."

Read that sentence again and admire. First, you might expect Dr Carey's encouragement to be dissipated somewhat by the fact that the elected chamber of Parliament voted overwhelmingly, on a free vote, for reform of the age of consent. Second, what on earth is a "sustainable" moral framework? Does that merely mean an old moral framework?

And why base it on Christian principles? Above all, why base it on "traditional" Christian principles? Dr Carey, I am not a Christian, but I too have strong moral principles. They include tolerance, respect for others, concern for the weak and a desire for truth. I may be a flawed vehicle for such principles, but there they are.

And they are very different from the principles of some of those whose support Dr Carey is so proud of. I know, because I too have received letters from them. Couched in tones of sorrow rather than anger, and argued with sophistry and disguised illogic, they still amount to the same illiberal proposition: homosexuality is aberrant, unhealthy and damaging, and should be discouraged by law. That's it.

Carey's position, when cleared of all the pompous penumbra, concurs with this view. He thinks that the equalisation of the age of consent will mean that boys of 16 and 17 will become prey to the wiles of older men and, as a consequence, will be seduced



DAVID AARONOVITCH

The Archbishop is using his power to assist an unelected group to frustrate the decisions of the Commons

into a lifetime of gayness when - otherwise - they might have grown up to be decent, God-fearing heterosexuals. It ain't so, George. But that's not really the point. I think that homosexuality is, per se, neither better nor worse than heterosexuality - just as Polynesians are no better than, say, Madagascans. I would not mind if any or all of my daughters became lesbians, as long as they led happy, fulfilled lives - period. Consequently I feel little need to stop men, who want to, shagging each other like sheep-dogs on a spring day.

Them's me views. OK. If I am so wonderfully tolerant, then why am I being incredibly beastly to the Bish? He is, after all, just a man with a mitre with a view. And he is entitled to his opinion, which is (I freely admit) no less valid than mine. But this is not just about opinion. For Dr Carey has

power. He is the top man in a big institution, and wields considerable influence. By virtue of his position as the established church, no fewer than 26 "Lords Spiritual" sit beside the Woolsack in the House of Lords. And we criticise the Irish for hanging on archaically to their history!

There are no rabbis representing Judaism in the Lords, no Hindus, no Muslims, no Sikhs, no Catholics, no Methodists, no Zoroastrians, no Humanists, no Druids - just 26 representatives of one sect of one religion sitting among the peers, voting on the age at which your teenage son and mine can play wiles with the bloke next door.

Until recently, I have treated those who campaign for the disestablishment of the Church of England with the same condescension that I have lavished upon the purchasers of Classic Cars, or *What Car* magazine. I salute their enthusiasm, while wondering about their priorities and avoiding their company. Besides, I have always quite liked the good old C of E and seen it as a protection against the zealots and the theocrats. Prone to self-doubt and to constant self-examination, I have appreciated its slow tolerance. So, I think, have its many gay members. They know that for years the church provided a refuge for gay men, many of whom were ordained and - childless and committed - part of the backbone of the church.

Not that a good case cannot be made out against all religion: it's just that no one wants it banned. As Earl Russell said yesterday, "The Archbishop of Canterbury clearly dislikes homosexuality, just as my father

(Bertrand Russell) disliked Christianity. But much as my father would dearly have loved to prevent its teaching, he knew that it was wrong to do so."

And, at the moment, that's the difference. Archbishop Carey has allied himself with the forces of intolerance and reaction, and is using his power as a leader of the established church to assist an unelected group of backwoodspeople to frustrate the decisions of the elected chamber, and to keep sexual relationships for men between 16 and 18 criminalised.

He hides the nature of his objection behind pomposity and presumption. Consider this paragraph from *The Times*. "I have made it clear to ministers," writes Dr Carey, "that I would have preferred the age of consent to be addressed in the context of a broader review." Who does he think he is? Derek Draper? Well, I've made it clear to ministers that I would prefer Dr Carey's gizzards sautéed in olive oil and served at a Downing Street soiree.

Many liberals have not been fans of Peter Tatchell, though he is as doughty a fighter as any on the other side. But how can we now argue against the outing of senior members of the Church of England, on the basis that their sexuality is their own business? No, by God, let's have them outed. And then let's chuck them out. For we liberals now know the truth: the House of Lords must go in its present form as soon as possible, and the bishops of this one church, raised by tyrants to pontificate over us, must go too. We should thank the Archbishop for at last letting the scales drop from our eyes.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is the kind of thing that worries mothers and fathers who have a 16-year-old son and don't want the promotion of homosexuality."
Baroness Young, Conservative peer, on the gay age of consent

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Cheerfulness gives elasticity to the spirit. Spectres fly before it."
Samuel Smiles, Scottish writer

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to the tidal wave that struck Papua New Guinea



"THE SANDY beaches of Aitape and their high waves have been billed as Papua New Guinea's 'surfers' paradise', attracting international interest. The sea and the beautiful Sissano Lagoon, separated by a 100 metre

sand strip where their villages were situated, were the source of livelihood for the people who lived near Aitape town. That alluring image changed last Friday night. The local people's best natural asset and mother of

blessings became their worst enemy, turning their paradise into watery hell. We can't know what the future holds, or how the locals are going to cope. A pressing decision remains what to do with them. It's a huge problem - are they going to settle inland, or will they rebuild. The only thing that can be said with certainty, albeit ironically, is that they still love the sea." Papua New Guinea Post-Courier

"IN THE face of such community devastation, the

natives of Arop are trying to decide their future. Now they fear the ocean that fronted their village and they loathe the lagoon that backed on to it - the smell of rotting flesh and chance encounters with bloated corpses have made them stay right away from the water that was once their playground. The emerging consensus appears to be that the people of Arop have to find a new home. They have no choice left. To protect future generations, they must relocate." Sydney Morning Herald

"IT TOOK a mere six minutes for a seven-meter tsunami, triggered by a magnitude seven earthquake, to reach the coastal areas of West Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. It will be lifetimes before the damage is undone. Five days after the disaster more than 6,000 people are still missing, the death toll has reached 1,200, and it is expected to triple. Rebuilding the devastated villages will be relatively easy. Most of the buildings were simple huts; with money they can be replaced. Money cannot replace the entire gen-

eration that was lost to the tsunami. The people of Papua New Guinea need help, and Japan, along with other nations, should spare no effort in giving it. Life will go on, burdened by the tragedy of last Friday. The physical and emotional scars may never heal. It is likely that the people of West Sepik will never again look at the sea - the source of their sustenance and livelihoods - in quite the same way. We have all been reminded of our place in the natural order of things. It is an unsettling message." The Japan Times

PANDORA

WOMEN IN Journalism sipped lukewarm rose wine as the guests of Gordon Brown at a Tuesday evening reception held at 11 Downing Street. After a brief speech from the group's chairwoman, former Sunday Express editor Eve Pollard, the Chancellor soon had the hackettes in stitches with a stand-up routine that disproved recent reports of his "dourness". Amongst Gordon's one-liners was a reference to Peter Mandelson "who we now call the Minister Between Portfolios". As for living next door to the Blair family, Gordon reported that he was growing accustomed to hearing "the sound of Oasis being played and of French being practised - all this before the kids get home from school." Has Stephen Fry been feeding him lines?

IT'S BEEN 50 years in the coming, but finally his time has come. Whose time? Noddy, of course. The impossibly insipid little fictional creation of Enid Blyton has finally been translated into Welsh, where his name is "Nodi", long after versions have appeared in languages as far-flung as Japanese and Hebrew. Published by Sain in North Wales, under an agreement with Harper Collins, the first three "Nodi" books arrived in Welsh shops this week. Can national independence be far behind?

HOUSE OF Commons police were called out last Thursday to disperse an angry crowd of drinkers at the harshly-lit Sports & Social Club bar, located in the bowels of Parliament. This followed the new landlord's decision to ban anyone who is not a member after 8pm. Frequented by everyone from researchers to Members, it costs just £3 to join the club, which stays open until the House rises. Now Black Rod has been asked to adjudicate. His verdict: "Any guests before 8pm are welcome to stay for as long as they like, but no new guests can enter after 8pm." Pandora hears that some regulars are not satisfied with this ruling. Perhaps a visit from formidable Speaker Betty Boothroyd is the only way to sort out this rambunctious lot.

The fetching young actress Liv Tyler (right) has been doing some unusual gardening, according to American GQ in its August issue. This is the same

infamous issue which includes a soporific spoof of Britain featuring a mocked-up photo of the Queen in a g-string. Tyler tells GQ's reporter about attending the birth of her boyfriend Joaquin Phoenix's sister, including her fascination, for some reason, with the placenta. "What an outrageous thing," she reports with scintillating acumen. "It's heavy, like a brain. We kept it and put it in the yard with a tree, which I thought was a really sweet idea." Too bad they didn't bury the magazine with it.

YES, IT'S weird. Agents Scully and Mulder of *The X-Files* have been hijacked by the evangelistic street-preaching group Jews for Jesus. They appear in an unauthorised comic strip in one of the proselytizing pamphlets which JFJ hand out on pavements around the world, including London.

A Mulder caricature tells a fake Scully that he's found evidence of an extraterrestrial ancient called Y'shua - the Hebrew name for Jesus - who lived in Bethlehem. As always, Agent Scully is quick to pour cold rationality on Mulder's burning enthusiasm. She tells him, "You're talking about the Jewish Messiah... And he's no hoax."

Any copyright problems with this? Not according to David Brickner, a spokesman for Jews for Jesus, because "we're not making any money on this". But are they making any friends?

ALTHOUGH THE vast majority of letters received by the Anti-Rucksack On The Tube Campaign are positive, we do receive the occasional piece of hate mail. One of our most persistent critics is a gentleman from West Yorkshire who lauds rucksacks for having cured his lower back pain. "If you persist in your campaign to drive rucksack users into cars... or to return to their briefcases, you will have a lot to answer for," writes Michael Atkinson somewhat ominously.

Once again, Sir, let us assure you that the Campaign has no desire to force rucksack users to abandon public transport. Nor are we unsympathetic to your chronic back problems. Our quarrel is with luggage louts who refuse to behave courteously in crowded public spaces. "Just take it off!" is our motto.



Don't pity us poor Asian women.



BIDISHA

An arranged marriage is no different from, and a lot safer than, placing an ad in 'Time Out'

forward-thinking and outward-looking, and have easily assimilated the best aspects of all cultures.

Women marry at roughly the same age as their English counterparts, living away from home and studying or working until then. They are not exactly torn from their bedsides and dragged to their own surprise wedding parties at the age of 20.

If they opt for an arranged mar-

riage, which some do, their parents, family members and friends (the people who know them best) search for suitable suitors. There is no coercion, no force, no blackmail.

Willing gentlemen are delivered to the girl's door for her delectation or rejection. She might meet someone she likes, or she might change her mind about the whole thing. It is no different from, and a lot safer than, placing a lonely hearts ad in *Time Out*.

The lowest classes, in both the East and West, are seen as the principal sites of unreconstructed and extremist politics on matters of sexuality, race and religion (such as the alleged killers of Stephen Lawrence, or American anti-abortion/anti-gay protesters). It is people from this class, and this class only, who are forcing some girls into unwanted marriages.

For all the sob stories that the press adores printing, there is an entire generation of Asian women, both in the East and in England, who get on well with their families, have friends of both sexes, great job prospects and a cultural heritage that includes Indian novels, Amer-

ican films and British art. That there has been an increased number of attempted forced marriages illustrates the disjunction in attitudes between second- and first-generation Asians.

The difference is that the latter group now have more power, autonomy and legal rights than their parents' group; the current strife is just the cultural fall-out attendant upon the establishment of second-generation Asians in Britain.

One further problem remains, however: coverage of the issue has revealed the deep underlying racism of the Western press. Writers making huge generalisations about what goes on in "Asian culture" and "the Asian community" have an offensively limited notion of life in India or Pakistan.

The India or Pakistan of the Western image is a rural, primitive settlement governed by tyrannical dads and scheming aunts and uncles. It is a place where women's sexuality and autonomy are brutally repressed, and where any defection from the code of family loyalty or honour is ruthlessly punished.

That sounds nothing like the

India I have been visiting for two months every year of my life, a country which is the premier site of global IT expertise, where young male and female university students sit in coffee houses and discuss books or take a tram into town to catch a film or buy clothes and records.

Of course, in tiny villages, far from any major cities, some forced marriages may happen. People who live in places like that do not want to change their attitudes or question themselves. Yet one must consider the obvious parallels between such attitudes in the East and those English villages whose inhabitants' jaws drop at the sight of a black person on the street, or the families who would balk at the prospect of their little girl bringing home an Asian boyfriend.

Simply put, tyranny, misogyny, xenophobia and patriarchy are not race-specific. The Western press may love to fetishise the denigration of young women's rights in Asia, yet it must also be said that England is clocking up a fabulous history of abuse of youths in care, child pornography and paedophilia.

Forget about inflation - price stability is here to stay



HAMISH MCRAE

We are in the middle of a revolution, one that occurs only every couple of hundred years

ferocity. (If you are interested, preliminary estimates suggest the custodians of the euro will be even more hawkish than the council of the Bundesbank.)

But wait a minute, something is happening here which is vastly bigger than the decisions over quarter per cent changes in interest rates in a few developed countries. Dr Greenspan's views about interest rates and the decisions by the Bank of England catch the headlines, but these are just tremors on the surface. Deep, deep down there is a giant seismic movement taking place - the shift between a world of inflation and one of stable prices.

It can be very hard when you are in the middle of a revolution to realise quite what is happening, but we are, I think, in the middle of one now, one that occurs only every couple of hundred years. If you look back over 750 years at price movements in England (yes, the data exists), there have been long periods of price stability interspersed by periodic surges in inflation.

The surges occurred in the 16th

century with the discovery of gold and silver in the Americas; during the Napoleonic Wars, which were financed by heavy government borrowing, and since the Second World War. Between these great inflations there were long periods, lasting up to two centuries, when prices were broadly stable. In any one year, or even decade, they jumped about; but in the longer term, the pluses were balanced out by the minuses. At the end of each of the great inflations - in the first half of the 17th and 18th centuries - there was an awkward adjustment from inflation to stability. We are now in the middle of just such an adjustment following the post-1945 inflation.

It is an awkward time (though arguably less awkward than the period we have all lived through, when inflation was endemic) partly because our past experience is no guide to the future, but also because the transition does not necessarily take place in a smooth, orderly way. It would be nice if it did, but I don't think we know enough about the causes of inflation, or the correct responses to it, to be able to manage the transition in the optimal way. The image of Dr Greenspan and his ilk as all-powerful experts able to adjust prices and economic activity is flawed. They are scrambling along behind something that is much bigger than they are, trying to understand it and trying not to make mistakes in their own response.

For the shift is not taking place because of the decisions of central bankers. Insofar as we understand it at all, it is taking place because of a combination of the power of savers and the power of globalisation. True, there are structural changes taking place in the world economic system - in particular, greater independence being given to central banks, and pressure on governments to bal-



How important are central bankers like Alan Greenspan?

ance their budgets - which reinforce the process. But you have to ask why are countries giving more independence to central banks and why are they squeezing down public sector deficits? Answer: the penalties for not doing so are greater.

If governments do not behave in what savers deem to be a "responsible" way, they are clobbered by savers. Long-term interest rates rise, capital runs out of the country or fails to come in. Companies stop investing, employment falls. We really do know how to make a mess of an economy, and in a world where both information and capital cross national boundaries with the speed of light, any government that is making a serious mess is swiftly punished. Sooner or later the penny drops, and a government either mends its ways or is heaved out.

So it is not Dr Greenspan who is exercising power. He (like all the other central bankers) is merely the physical face representing vastly deeper forces. His job is to judge these forces correctly, responding with the one weapon that is in his

armoury: control over short-term interest rates.

It is a very difficult transition to manage, and so far the US seems to have managed not too badly. By contrast, Japan has managed it rather poorly and (with the added bad luck of recession elsewhere in its time-zone) has plunged itself into a serious recession. Britain managed the transition pretty badly in the early 1990s, making the opposite mistakes to Japan (excessive inflation instead of excessive deflation), but ending up with a similar outcome.

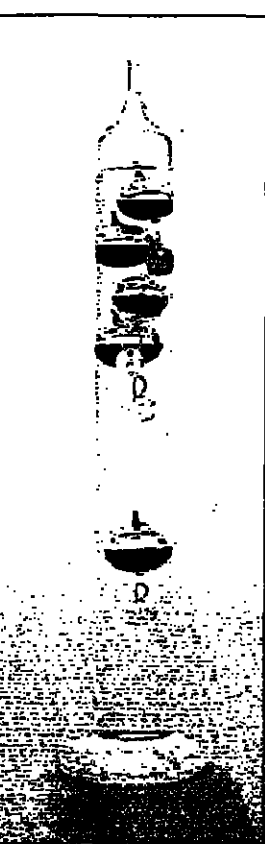
Yes, power has shifted from politicians to central bankers. But remember that they are only the intermediaries - the front - for something that is deeper and beyond their ken. I'm not saying we should feel sorry for them: perish the thought. Let them have their moment in the sun. It's just that we are being a touch naive when we hang on their every word. They matter sure; but they are not that important, certainly by comparison with the forces that they are attempting to control.

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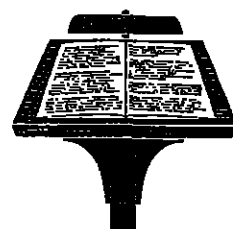
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An innovative strategy for the arts



PODIUM

LORD MCINTOSH OF HARINGEY
From a speech made to the House of Lords by the government's spokesman on the arts

ON FRIDAY the broad allocation of arts funding will be announced for a period of three years to provide the stability which all arts organisations need in order to make proper plans for the amount of public funding they will receive to put beside their other sources of income. Last Tuesday the Chancellor announced plans for the next two years. That involves an extra £290 million over the period to 2002. That is a significant increase in real terms.

There is not too much mileage in the concept of an integrated arts strategy. I tried to think what an integrated arts strategy for the United Kingdom might involve. I wondered whether it was a strategy for integrating arts funding, for example, in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. I wondered whether there was some concept of integration of strategy across different art forms, but I detect some resistance to that, which I share.

I shall not speculate on the analogy between an integrated arts policy and an integrated transport policy. Transport is about moving people and things around. If there are different modes of doing that, integration is likely to make transport policy more efficient. I do not think the analogy with the arts works particularly well, even for what I was interested to hear called a broadly socialist government.

Without following the route of integration, we can say a few things about the way in which we approach arts policy, even if they do not define any particular decisions on the allocation of resources.

The first is rather obvious. I refer to the promotion of access for the many, not just the few. We want access to museums and galleries not only because of numbers. It is because the arts have the power to illuminate and transform us all for the better that we want as many people as possible to share that experience.

We could define our strategy as being the pursuit of excellence and innovation. Some people seem to think that by "innovation" we mean something that is politically correct. That is not the case at all. With respect, I do not think that the Prime Minister's taste in pop music has anything to do with arts strategy. He likes

what he likes, and I do not happen to agree with him. But we shall not be determining our policy on our particular proclivities. Even if he likes Oasis - and I do not know whether he does - he is not for that reason, saying that Oasis is more worthy than opera. We have to pursue excellence in a wide range of art forms. Some may well be popular forms as well as highbrow.

It is true that the education

system engenders the creativity on which the arts depend. Unless effective artistic teaching of all kinds can be restored in our schools, what we do about access to museums and galleries, concerts and theatre will not be effective.

It is widely recognised that unless we get reading and writing correct in the first place, everything else will suffer. It means that we shall need to give our schools more flexibility in arts teaching. It does not mean that we are downgrading arts education.

Clearly, what we can do for the arts in general is dependent on the amount of money available from the National Lottery. Very large amounts of lottery money have been spent on the arts - over £1bn. The new Lottery Bill will not mean that money will be diverted from the arts. On the contrary, it means that lottery funding will now be used for people, not merely for bricks and mortar.

The new audiences fund is targeted to help arts organisations extend their audiences, to bring new people to the arts, to encourage young people in particular and to broaden their experience in different

art forms. We set up the £5m fund at the time of the last Budget.

On access to museums and galleries, I accept that there has been a significant decline in the number of people visiting galleries as a result of charges. If any way can be found to reverse that, we must certainly look for it.

No proposals have been put to the Government by the British Library for charging readers. If they were, it would not be up to the British Library. Under the British Libraries Act, it would be for the Secretary of State to decide whether charges should be made.

Even though there is a great deal of devolution of arts policy, there is at the same time a good deal of cross-country funding and collaboration.

We do not have any view that the arts should all be treated the same or that there should be a rigid Procrustean bed of artistic strategy. Nevertheless the concern not only of my department but of the whole of government for public funding of the arts has never diminished, will not diminish and indeed can be expected to increase.

The luckiest man in the world



ANDREW MARSHALL

Everyone wonders at Clinton's luck, how long it can hold and what happens when it runs out

BILL CLINTON is one of the most fortunate men ever to sit in the White House. He certainly thinks so. "I've been the luckiest person in the world. The American people have continued to support me in the face of unprecedented attacks," he told reporters at a fund-raiser back home in Arkansas at the weekend.

Everybody in politics wonders at that luck, at how much longer it can hold and what it will mean when it finally runs out. As his long investigation draws to a close, Kenneth Starr, the Witchfinder General of Washington, is closing in on the President and Monica Lewinsky.

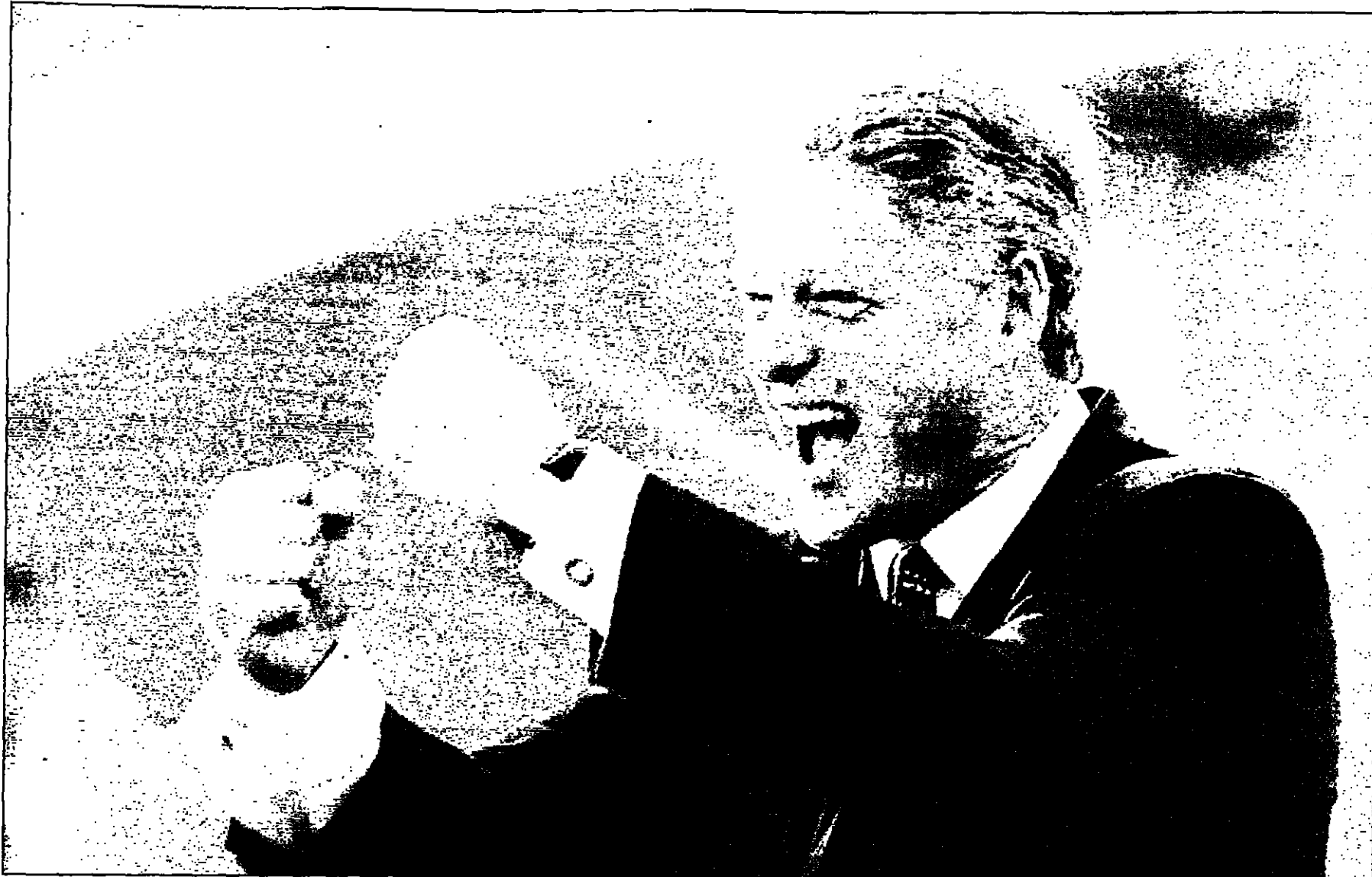
The Republican-dominated Congress is busily rewriting his legislative priorities, making it hard for anything meaningful to come out of the White House. And later this year, Congressional elections are likely to see the President's party fail to retake either house of Congress.

After the mid-terms, the President becomes a lame duck, simply sitting out the time until retirement and the opening of the William J Clinton Memorial Library. Starting this summer, the political obituaries will begin, Monica or no Monica.

But don't count him out just yet. There is a persistent tendency in Britain and in America, to underestimate Mr Clinton. Washington is littered with bitter, frustrated people who have failed to appreciate his sheer ability to survive, and turn survival into triumph.

The conservatives have been blazing away at him for years now with all guns, pouring fire at every aspect of his presidency and painting him as the worst traitor, philanderer and liar ever to grace the capital. (There is, it must be said, still competition.) Yet, every time, they are left shaking their fists impotently, shouting: "Curse you, Red Baron!" as he flies on. None of the accusations have stuck, so far, none of the investigations that have littered the courthouses and committee rooms have borne fruit.

Nor has the right managed to deliver a decisive political blow. After all, it was only four years ago, at the last mid-term elections, when it seemed that his luck was over, after a mere two years in office. With much of his agenda already in tact-



The factor above all others that has sustained Mr Clinton's political fortunes is the wave of public sentiment that has been generated by the economic boom. Win McNamee

ters, the country elected Newt Gingrich and his fellow right-wing Republicans to control the House of Representatives, putting the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue under enemy control. We were promised a revolution in American governance, and the end of the Clinton years before they had even begun.

It didn't happen, of course. Mr Gingrich proved too poor a politician, in terms of either strategy or tactics, to carry out his crusade. The population at large found him too difficult to accept, too ungainly, and just a bit too barmy. And anyway, they didn't want a revolution: they were too busy making money.

The factor above all others that has sustained Mr Clinton's political fortunes is the wave of public sentiment that has been generated by the economic boom. The American economy is motoring along as well as it has done since the Sixties, and people just aren't that bothered by the things that the politicians would like them to care about. Like politics. Things seem fine; why vote? This "What, me, worry?" attitude has put the President at the top of the opinion polls, and probably will keep him there.

You can call that luck, because the man chiefly responsible is prob-

ably Alan Greenspan, the stony faced chairman of the Federal Reserve, not the President. But Mr Clinton, who entered office determined to launch a massive programme of fiscal stimulus, was quickly persuaded instead to work with the bond market, not against it. The deficit reduction he put forward instead helped keep interest rates low, and propelled growth.

You can also call it luck that the Gingrich conservatives never got their act together. But Mr Clinton's strategy of triangulation - striking a course between the two parties - helped cut the ground from under them. The fact is that in politics you make your own luck, and through-out his career Mr Clinton has been highly skilled at turning it out in bucket loads. He has a tactical flair for politics the like of which few of his opponents will ever approach.

It is still possible that in the next few weeks, Mr Starr will deliver a killer blow in his fight to prove that the President and his aides connived at perjury in the sexual harassment case of Paula Jones, but it looks a long bet. The legal complexities mean that it will probably take plenty of time before a clear position emerges; the public still isn't that interested; and the much-

touted appearance of the secret service agents may well turn out to be a damp squib. There is a significant risk, but the President's luck has held out this far.

In this year's elections, however, the right will probably do quite well. It looks increasingly unlikely that the Democrats will be able to win back the 11 seats in the House of Representatives that they need, even though polls show that more people support them than the Republicans. The same polls show that these people won't vote; they're not bothered enough.

The same general benevolence that keeps Mr Clinton high in the ratings virtually guarantees that Mr Gingrich and his Newtists will come back in strength next year. When turnout is low, the richer, middle class voters with a flag to carry - anti-abortion, pro-religion conservatives - can still be relied upon. So as the year goes on, the Republicans will try to mobilise this force, harness its votes and its money, and use it to get a greater hold than they have already on Congress.

Everything we know about the President suggests that he is temperamentally incapable of buckling under the continuing pressure. Mr Clinton is a man of tremendous

stamina and energy, who never knows when to stop working.

"His whole life is one long re-election campaign aimed at the Presidency. Everything he does has been shaped by that," said an Arkansas commentator way back in 1992, when he was nominated for the White House. In pursuit of that, he has had to compromise, to steer different courses from those he had planned.

In 1993, when his team told him he had to start rethinking his approach to the budget, he became red with anger. "You mean to tell me that the success of my programme and my re-election hinges on the Federal Reserve and a bunch of bond traders?" he asked. It did, and he accommodated himself to that reality. In the same way, he "triangulated" after the 1994 Republican landslide, working between the Democrats and the Republicans. He can still make Washington work for him in the remaining two years of his Presidency.

Mr Clinton can survive, even to act, but for what? The sad irony is that in two years' time, it may be hard to see what legacy he has left. There has, it is true, been a change in the way Americans think about politics, a renewed confidence in

government and a new willingness to experiment - in welfare reform, for instance. But although Mr Clinton may be a bridge-builder and may have resuscitated the Democrats, it looks as if he will leave behind him few substantial landmarks.

Increasingly, the President seems intent on ensuring that his deputy, Al Gore, moves from Vice-President to the Oval Office. Yet that seems no more than a vague hope. Mr Gore is by no means a live wire, despite his recent attempts to affect a sense of humour, and the fact that he is widely recognised won't necessarily help.

To the right, the fact that Mr Clinton has survived at all seems monstrously unfair, a travesty of justice. To his own supporters, the gridlock that has prevented him from making his mark on the country also seems unfair, a denial of democracy.

In the end, neither luck nor political acumen have saved him from the enduring problems of the White House and American government. Perhaps that isn't fair, but if you think politics in America is about fairness, then I have some swamp-land property which you may find interesting.

RIGHT OF REPLY

ALAN YENTOB



The BBC's Director of Television defends the corporation's output

YOU MAY have been perplexed to see a programme called *2 Up* running over two nights on BBC 1 this week. The *7 Up* series, which has followed the lives of a class of individuals at seven-year intervals, is probably the most highly regarded documentary strand that ITV has ever carried. But for some curious reason they did not have enough space for it this time round. By a sweet irony, these documentaries have taken up residence in the heart of BBC 1's peak-time schedule only a week after ITV accused the BBC of failing in its public service obligation.

What other mainstream channel would have commissioned *The Human Body*, a landmark science series to which we dedicated six hours of BBC1's viewing? Up to 8 million people now understand more about the workings of their own bodies than they ever have before.

The BBC's assaults this week have not been confined to rival broadcasters. In last Friday's *Independent*, Suzanne Moore objected, *inter alia*, that "the failure of the BBC this year to produce decent sitcoms, drama and arts programming is shameful". Shameful? The board of governors' report in fact said that, in an outstanding year, the BBC could still make some improvements. To admit that you could improve your drama output in a year in which you have won Bafta awards seems to me to suggest humility.

There is no cynicism in what we do. The licence fee may seem to be an anomaly but it has been a glorious one. It remains as a guarantee that the BBC is there for everyone. The whole point about the BBC is that it is not marginal to people's lives. In Huw Welsh's famous phrase, "we want to make the good popular and the popular good". We will never take that for granted.

Ireland, the magnet for writers

TERRY EAGLETON is aware of the dangers inherent in any attempt to analyse Ireland, a place in which political passions run exceptionally high and faction flourishes. Any pronouncement is almost guaranteed to provoke outrage, misconstruction or some other kind of wild reaction on the part of someone or other. And, if a disinterested view is hard to achieve, it is even harder to put across. Whatever you say, your remarks will be pounced on by some hostile reader as evidence of fearfully suspect leanings. However, in spite of all that, Ireland as a topic for literary or social comment remains so fruitful, complex, pungent and absorbing that it is well-nigh irresistible - and never mind whether you are out of synch with the newest orthodoxy.

In fact, the forms of scrutiny to which Ireland is subject tend to go round in circles, as a revision of a revision of revisionism (or some such amendment) gets incessantly under way. But the most compelling critics are always those in whom an independent shrewdness of outlook is not swamped by any preconception.

Eagleton is a case in point. Of course, we know - because he has told us - that he is politically on the left, sympathetic to the nationalist cause in Ireland, and not a fan of the revisionism that questions this cause. But an irrepressible ingenuity (among other qualities) keeps such beliefs from overburdening his commentaries. Generally, he is a plain speaker. In his new collection, only the title piece comes close to encompassing a kind of academic obfuscation. With Eagleton's next essay, entitled "The Good-Natured Gael", the tone lightens, and things stay lively throughout the rest of the book.

These essays (10 in all) cover aspects of Ireland not already tackled in *Heathcliff* and *The Great Hunger* (1995), though Eagleton continues to



THURSDAY BOOKS

CRAZY JOHN AND THE BISHOP, AND OTHER ESSAYS ON IRISH CULTURE BY TERRY EAGLETON, CORK UNIVERSITY PRESS, £14.95

THE REST IS HISTORY BY GERALD DAWE, ABBEY PRESS, £7.95

be crucially concerned with those historical forces working against social advancement in the country. Another - related - theme is exile, with consequent importations from the outposts, including Celtic cordiality. "The Good-Natured Gael" brought his instinct for fellowship and his emotional responsiveness over the water to temper English phlegm. His feelings, though, sometimes got the better of him, as with the popular 19th-century poet Thomas Moore ("The Masochism of Thomas Moore" is the buttonholing title of the piece included

here). Moore's *Irish Melodies* amount to an unrestrained wallowing in antique woes.

One of Eagleton's achievements is to reinstate neglected figures, such as the philosopher Francis Hutcheson, or various bygone men of letters. A whole parade of them is marshalled here in the powerfully high-spirited essay entitled "Cork and the Carnavalesque". This is crammed with 19th-century Cork literati - Mahoney, Callaghan, Milliken, Maginn, and so forth. Flamboyant drinkers and socialisers to a man, half



Revealed: the raison d'être of the Van Morrison phenomenon

of them were torn between London's journalistic milieu and darkest Munster ("Home and Away" subtitled "Internal Emigrants in the Irish Novel") expands the topic to consider disaffection and alienation in Irish fiction. Its few plot summaries make you thankful that you do not have to read the works in question ("His lover is Tully McCoolagh, a charismatic revolutionary leader who turns out to be a woman in a bowler hat").

An overestimation of the resolutely middlebrow and unironic writer, Kate O'Brien, is balanced by an appreciation of the mischievous social satirist, Mervyn Wall, among other fallacies and felicities. The book proceeds by way of creative contradiction (revealed in phrases such as "centrally peripheral" or "authentically inauthentic"), scholarship, insight and idiosyncrasy. It adds up to an intricate and ambitious exploration of literary byways.

When Eagleton complains about critics being jumped on, in certain circles, for declining to find the nationalist heritage in Ireland "universally bigoted and bankrupt", he

is using a term which is actually more commonly applied to the Unionist heritage. The word "bigoted" is almost automatically attached to Unionism. Of course, to thus castigate one or other tradition shows a slovenly judgement. "I hate stereotypes," declares the critic and poet, Gerald Dawe, in his new collection of essays *The Rest is History*. These four longish pieces discuss a Belfast Protestant upbringing, sectarian distortions, the playwright Stewart Parker, and, wonderfully compressed, the whole background, mood and raison d'être of the Van Morrison phenomenon.

"I hate [the idea] that 'culture' could ever belong to one side to the disadvantage of the other," writes Dawe. *His stalwart approach* makes him an exceptionally forthright and inspiring commentator, and his book will reinforce the new Abbey Press's growing reputation for strong content and impeccable appearance.

The reviewer edited *The Oxford Book of Ireland* PATRICIA CRAIG

THURSDAY POEM

SHANTY BY IAN DUHIG

Seven fly:
salmon feast.
Seven salmon:
seal feast.
Seven seal:
shark feast.
Seven shark:
whale feast.
Seven whale:
Norse feast.
Seven Norse:
fly feast.

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Michael Denison

TALL AND urbane, Michael Denison was one of Britain's most respected gentlemen actors, who in his 60-year career had notable successes in theatre, film and television.

His lean handsomeness was complemented by his richly stentorian tones, unmistakably those of the English public school. His films included such hits as *My Brother Jonathan* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, on television he starred for many years in the crime series *Boyd QC*, and his work on stage embraced both classic and modern theatre.

He and his wife Dulcie Gray formed one of the theatre's most distinguished acting partnerships and together held a special place in the hearts of the public. Next year they would have celebrated 60 years of marriage. In 1983 they were both appointed CBE, and earlier this year they completed a season as part of Peter Hall's acclaimed production of *An Ideal Husband*, which they performed in London and New York over a period of four years, and which proved a perfect showcase for their matchless comedic style and timing.

Denison was born John Michael Terence Wellesley Denison in Doncaster, Yorkshire, in 1915, raised by an uncle and aunt (his mother had died three weeks after he was born) and educated at Harrow and Magdalen College, Oxford. His family wanted him to join the diplomatic service but at Harrow (where he fagged for the future playwright Terence Rattigan) he became interested in drama when asked by the school's prime actor, Dorian Williams (later the show-jumping commentator), to appear in a house play.

Though he acted in several shows at Harrow, it was during his time at Oxford reading Modern Languages that he decided on the theatre as a career. "In those days famous people of the theatre would give up time to work with the Oxford University Dramatic Society, such was its fame," Denison told me when I talked to him last year. "John Gielgud arrived to direct *Richard II*, bringing with him the young Vivien Leigh to play the Queen with Glen Byam Shaw to co-direct. I played three tiny parts, and was suddenly exposed to the very best of professional theatre. I decided then that, whether or not the theatre wanted me, I wanted the theatre."

More important roles with the Ouds followed, including Orlando in *As You Like It* with Nova Pilbeam as Rosalind, and Macduff in *Macbeth* with "a superb Lady Macbeth by Margaret Rawlings". He went from university to the Webber-Douglas Drama School in London without having to audition. "Males were something of a rarity at the school in those days. When I appeared at their portals, they had seven men and 75 girls, so anything in trousers was practically hauled off the street."

Dulcie Gray was a fellow pupil. "We were both shy and inhibited then, but each thought the other had a certain amount of talent and that was the first bond. Gradually we became great friends, then fell in love." Denison was to become a professional actor after only three terms. "I was seen after a year and offered two jobs - first a fortnight at Frinton playing Lord Fancourt Babberley in *Charley's Aunt*, after which I was whisked into the West End to play quite large parts with a group called the London Mask Theatre, founded by J.B. Priestley, a great hero of our lives."

Among the roles he played in the company's 1938-39 season at the Westminster Theatre were Paris in *Trifles and Cressida* (1938), the cynical young man Gordon in Priestley's fine thriller *Dangerous Corner*

"We've never said, if you want one of us you've got to have the other. It's worked out, oddly enough, that we've done about 60 per cent of our work together"

(1938), the Rev Alexander Mill in Shaw's *Candida*, and Ghazan Khan in Eugene O'Neill's satire about Marco Polo, *Marco's Millions* (which was transmitted on BBC television in January 1939).

When Denison and Gray were both offered the security of a summer season with a repertory company in Aberdeen, they decided to get married, and did so on 29 April 1939. In Aberdeen the couple made their first joint stage appearance, as brother and sister in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*. They returned to the London stage to star in Priestley's play *Music at Night* (1939), and Denison was given his first film role in *Tilly of Bloomsbury* (1940), but his acting career was shortly to be interrupted by the Second World War - he served in the Army Intelligence Unit from 1940 to 1946, during which time his wife achieved fame on stage and screen.

An extraordinary coincidence was to give Denison's post-war career a major boost. In 1942, while on leave, he had accompanied Gray to the studio to watch her do a screen test, and in the absence of an actor to play the scene with her had filled in. Four years later, Associated

British Pictures were planning to film Francis Brett Young's popular novel *My Brother Jonathan* but were having difficulty casting the prime role of the idealistic young doctor, Jonathan. The casting director told Gray, who was being considered for the role of the heroine, that he had been looking through old tests and had been impressed by the young man who had acted with her but had not been able to find out his name - did she know who he might be? Denison was subsequently tested for the film and given a long-term contract.

He played the small part of brother to Dennis Price in *Hungry Hill* (1946) and returned to the West End stage in Priestley's *Ever Since Paradise* (1946) while waiting for production to start on *My Brother Jonathan*, which was to become the most popular British film of 1947. Denison's sincere portrayal of the GP fighting abuses of medical care in the West Midlands establishing him as a major film star. Another film success followed, *The Glass Mountain* (1948), in which Denison played an opera composer. With the singing of Tito Gobbi, popular theme music by Nino Rota, and location shooting in Venice, where the opera scenes were shot inside the Teatro La Fenice, it has become a perennial favourite.

On stage Denison and Gray co-starred in two comedies, *Queen Elizabeth Slept Here* (1949) and Jan de Hartog's two-character play *The Fourposter* (1950), but were unable to accept an offer to take the latter to New York because of film commitments. He and Gray starred in an enjoyable film version of Josephine Tey's *The Franchise Affair* (1950) and a popular war story of fighter pilots stationed in Kent, *Angels One Five* (1951).

Anthony Asquith's stylish film version of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1952) remains a joy because of its collection of marvellous performances including Edith Evans's legendary Lady Bracknell and Denison's captivatingly mischievous Algy. His wife's gift for impishly droll comedy was displayed in the next film she and Denison made together, *There was a Young Lady* (1953). Though the Denisons frequently appeared together they also believed in having separate careers. "We've never said, if you want one of us you've got to have the other," said Denison. "It's worked out, oddly enough, that in all media we've done about 60 per cent of our work together."

In 1955 Denison spent a season with the Stratford Memorial Theatre ("My heart's desire - with Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh in plays directed by Gielgud and Byam Shaw - many echoes of Oxford in 1936 and a first step towards erasing the film star image.") The following year Denison was cast as a suave barrister in a six-episode



Denison with Dulcie Gray. They met at drama school and married in 1939

television show: *Boyd QC*, which proved so popular that it ran for nine years and 80 episodes (the first 40 transmitted live). So successful was the series in Australia that when Denison went there to star in *My Fair Lady* (1962), the newspaper headlines shouted "Boyd Here To Play Higgins".

In 1960 Denison and Gray starred in a revival of Shaw's *Candida*, directed by Frank Hauser, that was to have the play's longest-ever London run, and the following year they were Hector Hushaby and Lady Utterword in an acclaimed Hauser production of *Heartbreak House*. Glen Byam Shaw directed the couple in a successful adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel *Where Angels Fear*

To Tread (1963), and the following year Denison had a year's run in *Hostile Witness*, written by Boyd's creator Jack Raffey, with Denison again a QC, but this time in the dock accused of murdering a judge.

In 1965 Denison and Gray played in a production of *An Ideal Husband* that was less well received critically than the more recent one. "It starred several film people, including Maggie Lockwood and Richard Todd," said Denison. "and I think we were all somewhat looked down on, though the public flocked to it... It took Dulcie and myself some time - probably until *Candida* - to be accepted as theatre people by the theatre world and live down the sort of gooey publicity the film companies

put out about us when we were making our films together: a sentimental picture-postcard image of our lives in a thatched cottage in Essex. We are not really sentimental people at all."

The Denisons toured in Coward's *Private Lives* and works by Shaw, Ibsen, Chekhov and Congreve, and their performances in a 1970 London production of *The Wild Duck* were described by the critic Harold Hobson as "almost unbearably poignant". Denison professed regret that they did not do more Shakespeare, though in 1972 he played Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* and a majestic Prospero in *The Tempest* at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. One of the actor's favourite

roles was that of Pooh Bah in *The Black Mikado* (1975), in which he was the only white performer. "I became an ethnic minority of one at the age of 60! I had a wonderful time dancing and singing with all these youngsters - the oldest of them was 32 years younger than I was. Pooh Bah is a sort of Mr Fix-It, and I played him as Harold Macmillan."

Denison had another television success in the late 1970s when he played the impeccably English Captain Percival in the spy series *The Cold Warrior*. He and his wife had great personal success in a Windsor production of Coward's *A Song at Twilight*, a play they would like to have revived in the West End. Coward was one of their friends and wrote in his diary that he regretted not seeing them more often. "One forgets how really nice and intelligent they are."

Denison starred with Peter O'Toole in a revival of *The Apple Cart* (1986) and another Shaw play *You Never Can Tell* (1987) marked his 50th West End appearance. Prior to their recent success in *An Ideal Husband*, the Denisons toured in Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce* and in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (in which Denison had played all but one of the male parts). Denison returned to films with a prominent role in Richard Attenborough's *Shadowlands* (1993), and last year received high praise for his performance as Lord Loam in a revival of *The Admirable Crichton* at Chichester.

In 1987 the Denisons charmed New York critics when they made their Broadway debut in *An Ideal Husband*, then returned to resume their roles in the West End production, terminating their run in the play at the Jermyn Street Theatre in *Curtain Up!*, a beguiling evening of extracts and anecdotes. Denison was an active member of British Actors' Equity - he was on their council almost continuously from 1949 to 1977 and still served on their Appeal Committee.

He also wrote two volumes of autobiography, *Overture and Beginners* (1973) and *Double Act* (1985), fine testaments to a distinguished career and to a remarkable professional and personal partnership. "This was the life we hoped to have when we fell in love as students at the Webber-Douglas," he wrote. "Above all, I have been blessed in my companion. To put up with me for so long is surely the apotheosis of 'constancy'. I can only say I would ask her again. I hope she would make the same response."

Tom Vallance

John Michael Terence Wellesley Denison, actor: born Doncaster, Yorkshire 11 November 1915; CBE 1983; married 1939 Dulcie Gray; died Amersham, Buckinghamshire 22 July 1998.

Alan Shepard

COMPARED WITH the weeks or months a modern astronaut is asked to spend in space, or even measured against the full orbit of the earth achieved by Yuri Gagarin just 23 days before his own mission, Alan Shepard's history-making foray into space was brief: just a 15-minute parabola lifting him to a maximum altitude of 115 miles, before splashing down in the Atlantic off the Florida coast. But that *Mercury* flight of 5 May 1961 was the birth of the US manned space programme, a moment in NASA's history only eclipsed - for better or for worse - by the first moon landing eight years later, and the *Challenger* disaster of January 1986.

From the very beginning, Alan Shepard was visibly made of the right stuff. Having graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1944, he saw war service aboard a destroyer in the Pacific. But it was the skies and beyond, not the seas, which thrilled him. By March 1947 he received his wings and three years later became a navy test pilot, helping pioneer such innovations as in-flight refuelling and the first angled decks on aircraft carriers. Then, on 8 May 1959, came the announcement which would change his life. Along with six others including John Glenn and Virgil Grissom, Shepard was selected for Project Mercury, the first American manned space flight.

The seven were put through the most rigorous training, and Glenn, Grissom and Shepard made the final shortlist for what would go down in history as Flight 108. On 2 May 1961, hours before the scheduled launch, Shepard was the one who was picked. Bad weather forced a three-day postponement, but finally at 9.34am local time on 5 May, a Redstone missile blasted into space from Cape Canaveral, carrying the 10ft capsule *Freedom 7* in which Alan Shepard lay, with a 30lb nylon space-suit around his body and an entire nation's self-respect upon his shoulders. That 12 April, America had been



Shepard, left, with President Kennedy on the White House lawn, May 1961

Popperfoto

stunned to learn of Gagarin's flight, destroying the legend of eternal US technological superiority. Shepard's mission simply had to go off perfectly - and it did. At 9.49, after touching a maximum speed of 5,060mph, the capsule splashed down 302 miles out in the Atlantic. Shepard was pronounced "disgustingly normal" by the doctors who examined him. "Everything went just right," he told President Kennedy in the now traditional congratulatory phonecall afterwards. On 8 May 1961, 250,000 people lined Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington to hail the hero who had saved a nation's reputation.

Shepard's active space duty was thereafter hampered by a serious ear infection for six years, a spell in

which he headed NASA's space flight office. But in 1971 he made his second and last space trip, carrying out the third lunar landing aboard *Apollo 14* on 15 January 1971. Shepard was commander of the nine-day mission. He spent 33 hours on the Moon, earning a footnote in astronaut history as the first man to hit a golf ball on the Moon.

By then however he was almost 50, and in 1974 retired from NASA and the navy with the rank of Rear-Admiral. But some canny investing in the meantime had set him on the way to becoming a millionaire. In later years, he would flourish as a commercial property developer, partner in a venture capital group and, president of a beer distri-

bution company. But Shepard will always be remembered as the epitome of the US astronaut with his crew-cut and flashing smile, his unquestioning patriotism and boundless self-confidence.

"I'm here to serve the country," he told *Life* magazine after being chosen for the Mercury programme back in 1959. "I know it can be done, that it's important for it to be done, and I want to do it." He did.

Rupert Cornwell

Alan Bartlett Shepard, astronaut: born East Derry, New Hampshire 18 November 1923; married 1945 Louise Brewer (two daughters); died Monterey, California 21 July 1998.

Alberto Cavallari

ALBERTO CAVALLARI steered the Milan-based daily newspaper *Corriere della Sera* through one of the most turbulent periods of its history, between 1981 and 1984, when its reputation for serious, independent reporting was compromised by its direct involvement in the Banco Ambrosiano scandal.

Cavallari began his career as a journalist immediately after the war with the socialist weekly *Italia Libera*; he then moved on to the Milanese local paper *Corriere Lombardo* in 1947 and was one of the founders of the news weekly *Epoca* in 1950. He first arrived at the *Corriere della Sera* in 1954, and after putting in time on local news and crime, graduated to what he did best - long, carefully researched enquiries into aspects of Italian politics and society, many of which were turned into books.

His big break came in 1965, when the then editor of the *Corriere* sent Cavallari down to Rome to cover the final stages of the Second Vatican Council with a mandate to "find out what is happening in the Church". The resulting reports were gathered together in a book, *Il Vaticano che cambia* (1965) - but more importantly they led to Cavallari's being granted an interview with Pope Paul VI, which the *Corriere* published on 3 October 1965, the day before the Pope's historic visit to the United Nations. Syndicated all around the world, this was the first published interview with a pope since before the war.

In 1969 Cavallari left the *Corriere* to become editor of the Venice daily *Il Gazzettino*. Two years later he had moved on once more, working first on television as political correspondent for the Italian state broadcasting company RAI, then as head of the Rome office of the weekly news magazine *Europeo*, before moving to Paris as French correspondent for the Turin-based daily *La Stampa*. In 1977 the *Corriere* poached him back from its old rival,

appointing Cavallari to head its own Paris bureau.

It was while he was in Paris in June 1981 that Cavallari received a phone call from the Italian president Sandro Pertini, a longtime friend, who informed him that he was to take on the editorship of the *Corriere* immediately - unless he wanted Pertini to think of him as a coward.

The vacancy had been created when the previous editor, Franco Di Bella, was exposed as one of the members of the P2 Masonic Lodge controlled by the shadowy wheeler-dealer Licio Gelli, which acted as a contact club for high-ranking members of the Italian political, military and media establishment. Six months previously Di Bella had commissioned a long interview with Gelli, in which the Venerable Master talked openly of his plans for a "democratic renaissance" in Italy - plans which included control over the media. The interview was carried out by the television talk show host Maurizio Costanzo, who would also later be exposed as a member of P2.

Flicked by Pertini's appeal to his *amour propre*, Cavallari accepted the job. In his first editorial on 20 June he referred to the "stormy" period which "that Italian institution, the *Corriere della Sera*" was going through. He was in for more of the same before his first year as editor was up.

On 18 June 1982, Roberto Calvi was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge in London. Calvi, the man known as "God's Banker", because of his role as financial adviser to the Vatican, was president of the Banco Ambrosiano, which had just crashed leaving debts amounting to \$1.2bn. Among the many pies Calvi had a finger in was the Rizzoli-Corriere della Sera editorial group, in which he owned a 40 per cent stake. In October 1982 the group was put into receivership and then in February 1983 the remaining two directors, Alberto Rizzoli and Bruno Tassan Din, were arrested for fraudulent bankruptcy. At this point the *Corriere* was



shedding thousands of copies each week, and it even ceased publication for six days; but his staff never lost their confidence in Cavallari, and before the end of his mandate he had reversed the downturn.

Cavallari's editorship was also marked by his undisguised hostility to the then Italian prime minister, Bettino Craxi; and it was this which led to his eventual replacement by Piero Ostello in June 1984. "Mine was not an easy job," he wrote in his farewell editorial - "it's not every editor who ends up with two of his bosses arrested and the third hanging under a London bridge". But, he continued, "I steered the *Corriere* through the most terrifying of crossings - with high seas and the wind against me. I risked a shipwreck every single day. Getting to the other shore with the ship still intact was more than I could have hoped for."

After 1984 Alberto Cavallari lived mainly in Paris, working as a columnist for *La Repubblica* and added to his impressive list of current affairs books, which included studies of modern France, Russia, and China.

Lee Marshall

Alberto Cavallari, journalist: born Piacenza, Italy 1 September 1927; married (two sons); died Levanto, Italy 20 July 1998.

Professor Christine Fell

ONE REVIEWER described Christine Fell's book *Anglo-Saxon Women* when it was published in 1984 as both "very learned and deeply enjoyable". Such sums up much of the quality of Fell's scholarship, given that she brought great learning and much wit to both her teaching and research - to the benefit and pleasure of her students and colleagues alike.

The academic fun lives on in York, in the soundtrack Fell wrote for the Jorvik Viking Centre and in her best-selling publications *Jorvikings Saga* and *Toki in Jorvik*. As the centre's visitors travel in their "time-cars" through the reconstruction of Viking-age York, they hear snippets of Old Norse conversation, song and children's voices - those of her nieces and other Slingsby school-children, herself and anonymous academic friends such as Ray Page and Alan Binn. A second soundtrack was to follow for the Museum of London.

Fell received national honours for both Early English and Icelandic studies, although her university friends and colleagues will remember her not only for her publications, but also for her many other academic contributions in teaching and administration. Above all, however, they - and many others - will remember Chris Fell for her great gift of love and friendship to the young and old alike.

She was born and went to school in Louth in Lincolnshire, from where she went to Royal Holloway College at London University. She was awarded a BA in English with first class honours in 1959 and continued her university career by undertaking an MA in the Department of Scandinavian Studies at University College London. This she completed in 1961 with a thesis in the form of an edition of the Icelandic text, *Dunstanus Saga*, which was published in 1963.

Fell's first teaching position was at Ripon Training College in 1961, but she moved to Aberdeen University as an Assistant Lecturer in 1963, before being appointed to a Lectureship at Leeds in 1965. The greater part of her academic career was, however, spent at Nottingham University, from 1971 to her retirement in 1987, as Lecturer, Reader and then Professor of Early English Studies, becoming the first Director of the university's newly created Humanities Research Centre in 1994. She also served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for four years, from 1985 to 1989, with the specific remit for "student affairs", devoting herself in particular to improving the welfare of Nottingham's overseas students.



Vikings disembark a longboat, Viking Festival, York. Fell wrote the soundtrack for the Jorvik Viking Centre in York and was the author of the best-selling *Jorvikings Saga* and *Toki in Jorvik*. Asadour Guzelian

In the Department of English Studies, Fell's primary concern was the development of its medieval section and this she left in flourishing condition, as one of the strongest in the country, with courses in Old and Middle English and Old Norse, as well as Runic Studies, Viking Studies and Place-Names. At one time or another, Fell taught all of these courses, except Place-Names, to the study of which her contribution was, however, no less important. In 1992, she created at Nottingham a five-year Leverhulme Research Project, "A Survey of the Language of English Place-Names", with herself as the Administrative Director, subsequently taking on the post of Honorary Secretary of the English Place-Name Society in 1993.

Fell also acted in turn as Council Member, Joint Editor and President of

the Viking Society for Northern Research. She worked for the British Federation of Women Graduates, becoming the Chair of their Academic Awards Committee and Convenor of the Governors of their Charitable Foundation.

Fell's second major publication was an edition of *Edward King and Martyr* (1971), which was followed by her translation of *Egils Saga* (1975). The latter has established itself as a standard text, enhanced as it is by the poems of her then Nottingham colleague John Lucas.

She published numerous papers and contributions to conference proceedings, mainly semantic studies, including her Sir Israel Gollancz Memorial Lecture for the British Academy (1988), on "Old English Wicing". A series of articles on the terminology associated with Early English drinks and drinking habits

illustrate not only her concern with the meaning of words, but also for the artefacts they represent, something which led to much happy and fruitful archaeological collaboration.

In 1991, the President of Iceland awarded Fell the Order of the Falcon for her contribution to Icelandic Studies and then, in 1997, she was appointed OBE for her contribution to Early English Studies - fitting recognition of her academic achievements.

James Graham-Campbell

Christine Elizabeth Fell, medievalist: born Louth, Lincolnshire 23 February 1938; Lecturer, Nottingham University 1971-76; Reader 1976-81; Professor of Early English Studies 1981-97 (Emeritus); Pro-Vice-Chancellor 1985-89; OBE 1997; died York 2 July 1998.

TECHNOLOGICAL NOTES

ROGER SILVERSTONE

Cuff-links and the digital revolution

NICHOLAS NEGROPONTE, esteemed head of MIT's Media Lab and seer of the new age of global information and digital transformation, recently suggested that early in the next millennium our right and left cuff-links would be able to communicate with each other via low-orbiting satellite and have more computer power than our present PCs.

The digital revolution is clearly upon us, driven by an inexorable logic of miniaturisation and increasing power. A logic that enables Microsoft to withstand the power of the government of the United States and to continue to monopolise the global communication infrastructure of cyberspace. A logic in which hardware and software combine in endlessly differentiated ways to increase the speed and capacity of a global information system that seems to have no limits to its digestive capacity.

Railways, roads, telegraph, telephone, radio and television all rolled into one. The speed of change is phenomenal. Too fast, however, for many of those in industry and government who need to create and regulate its markets. The recent past is littered with failed technologies as well as the extraordinary and tangible success of the Internet growing world-wide, exponentially. E-mail and the World Wide Web are here to stay. It is not yet clear, however, how quickly, and in what form, interactive television will take its place beside the sofa.

And it is also far from clear what the wider implications of such technological change are likely to be. What effects will the emergence of electronic commerce have on global capitalism and global employment? What new skills will be required to participate in the information age and how will they be developed and sustained? What consequences will there be for democracy, privacy, honesty as new forms of communication challenge existing institutions, values and standards? Who will be the winners in the new age, who the losers? How will the identities and interests of individuals and minority cultures be created and protected in an electronic world dominated by a few major global communication organisations?

What, indeed, will my cuff-links say to each other? How many of us still wear them? The new media technologies, like all



Bill Gates: the monopoly of cyberspace

technologies before them, offer us opportunities. They do not determine outcomes. Radio was originally a two-way communication device, not a broadcast technology. The Internet now is home to both kinds of communication. But for how long?

To make sense of the ways in which the new media will affect our lives, and to enable us to master them for good will require a sustained effort of interdisciplinary social science research. Interdisciplinary, because it is no longer possible to distinguish an economic from a political from a social agenda, any more than it is possible to distinguish a telecommunications from a broadcast company. The technological and industrial convergence which digitalisation promotes is matched by the convergence in the way in which individuals and organisations use and consume the new machines and services. We switch from television, to telephony to the computer without blinking. And the way in which individuals and organisations use and consume these machines and services is in turn dependent upon access to resources, both material and symbolic.

We need money, knowledge, time. And we need social science research because technologies have to be understood for what they can and can not do for us as human beings in our daily lives. In Scunthorpe and Soweto as well as in Seattle.

Roger Silverstone is Professor of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and an editor of *New Media and Society*, a forthcoming journal from Sage Publications

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, attends the launch of the Animal Health Trust Jersey Committee at Jersey Zoo, Les Augres Manor, Trinity, Jersey, Channel Islands; opens Morier House, Halkett Place, St Helier, Jersey; and as Patron, takes the salute at the Royal Tournament at Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5. Princess Alexandra opens the extension to the Douglas Arter Centre, Odstock Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire; as Deputy President, British Red Cross Society, opens the new Wiltshire Headquarters in Gains Lane, Devizes, Wiltshire; and opens the new Vocational Training Centre for the Shaw Trust at Palmer Gardens, Islington, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000. The OBITUARIES e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Nicholas Barrington, former High Commissioner to Pakistan, 64; Professor Ross Cranston MP, 50; Miss Gloria DeHaven, actress, 74; Sir Alastair Down, former chairman, Burmah Oil, 84; Sir David Essex, entertainer, 51; Mr Michael Foot, former MP, 85; Mr Graham Gooch, cricketer, 45; Lord Alastair Graham, former Head Master, Mill Hill School, 66; Dr Robert Hawley, former chief executive, British Energy, 62; The Rev Mrs Betsy Haworth, deacon and non-stipendiary minister, 74; Sir Harry Hookway, former Pro-Chancellor, Loughborough University, 77; Sir Charles Kerruish, President of Tynwald, Isle of Man, 81; Air Vice-Marshal George Lamb, former rugby referee, 85; Mr David Lawman, former chairman, Prestige Group, 77; Mr Clive Rice, cricketer, 49; Lord Rogers of Riverside, architect, 65; Mr Richard Searby QC, former chairman, the News Corporation, 67; Sir John Stokes, former MP, 81; Mr Peter Twiss, former test pilot, 77.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Francesco Sforza, soldier, 1401; Antonio Maria Gaspari Sacchini, opera composer, 1734; François-Eugène Vidocq, police detective, 1775; Franz Berwald, composer, 1796; George Catlin, artist and writer, 1796; Coventry Kersey Dighton Patmore, poet, 1823; Richard Hol, composer and organist, 1825; Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, surgeon and scientist, 1828; Edouard (Judas) Colonne, composer and violinist, 1838; Edmund John Armstrong, poet, 1841; Alan Francis Brooke, first Viscount Alanbrooke, Field Marshal, 1883; Salvador de Madariaga y Rojo, writer and diplomat, 1886; Sir Arthur Whitten Brown, aviator, 1886; Raymond Thornton Chandler, novelist, 1896; Ras

Tafari Makonnen, Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, 1892; Elspeth Joscelyn Huxley (Grant), writer, 1907; Michael Wilding, actor, 1912.

Deaths: Sir Henry Percy (Harry Hotspur), killed in battle 1403; Richard Gibson, miniature-painter, 1690; Domenico Scarlatti, composer and harpsichordist, 1757; Arthur Wolfe, first Viscount Kilwarden, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, murdered 1803; Elizabeth Hamilton, writer, 1816; Isaac Merritt Singer, sewing machine inventor, 1875; Ulysses Simpson Grant, general and 18th US President, 1885; Sir John Simon, public health pioneer, 1904; Jean-Jacques Henner, painter, 1905; James Markton, politician, 1946; David Warf Griffith, film director, 1948; Robert Joseph Flaherty, documentary film-maker, 1951; Henri-Philippe Petelin, soldier and Vichy leader, 1951; Cordell Hull, statesman, 1955; Edward Montgomery Clift, actor, 1966; Sir Henry Hallett Dale, physiologist, 1968; Dell Floyd, novelist and playwright, 1969; Eddie Rickenbacker (Edward Vernon Rickenbacker), First World War fighter pilot, 1973; Rosemary Sutcliff, historical novelist, 1992.

On this day: the Battle of Shrewsbury was fought by the Percys against King Henry IV, 1403; Charles Stuart, the Young Pretender, landed at Eriskay Island in the Hebrides, 1745; the Battle of Mogilev, Russia, was fought between Napoleon's troops and those of Tsar Alexander I, 1812; the Battle of Custoza (Italian Wars of Independence) started 1848; the Jewish Disabilities Removal Act was passed by Parliament, 1858; Alexandra Park, Muswell Hill, North London, opened 1863; the Empress Eugénie was appointed as Regent of France by Emperor Napoleon III, 1870; John

Boyd Dunlop applied to patent a pneumatic tyre, 1888; in London, the "blitz" began with an all-night German air raid, 1940; King Farouk of Egypt was deposed by General Nguib, 1952; the Greek military junta resigned, 1974; the Duke of York married Sarah Ferguson, 1986.

Today is the Feast Day of St Anne or Susanna, St Apollinaris of Ravenna, Lord Chief Justice of Sweden, St John Cassian, St Liborius, St Romulus and her Companions, The Three Wise Men.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Journeys (iv): Guggenheim's travels", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Deirdre Robson, "Reactions to Victorian Taste", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Giorgio Botinelli, "Constantin Brancusi: a modern primitive?", 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Techniques of 17th-century British Printmaking", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Emmanuel Cooper, "BP Portrait Award 1998: the critic's view", 1.10pm.

WORLD CONGRESS OF FAITHS

The Sir Francis Younghusband Memorial Lecture was given yesterday by the Right Rev William Spring, Episcopal Bishop of California, at the Royal Scottish Corporation, King Street, London WC2. He spoke on the "United Religions Initiative". Mr Hugh Adamson, Chairman of the World Congress of Faiths, presided.

APPOINTMENTS

Ms Jane Elizabeth Wright and Mr John Mitchell

Rhodes, to be district judges, on the South Eastern Circuit. Mr John Michael Thomas Rogers QC, to be a circuit judge, on the Wales and Chester Circuit. Mr Michael Richard King, elected an Ordinary Benchers of Lincoln's Inn. Lord Lloyd of Berwick, elected Treasurer of the Inner Temple for 1999. Mr Stanley Brodie QC, elected Reader of the Inner Temple for 1999.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Paul Brown, Vicar, Peterborough St Mary Bonington (Peterborough); to be Team Rector, Wombourne with Trill and Bobington, and Priest-in-Charge, Swadlow, and Hainley (Leicestershire). The Rev Richard Burdette, Curate, Rotherham, and Curate (Team Vicar designate), Bristol St Andrew with St Bartholomew (Bristol); to be Team Vicar, Bishopston and St Andrew, same diocese, following pastoral reorganisation. The Rev Wendy Dudley, Team Vicar, Wednesfield St Philip and St James (Birmingham); to be Team Vicar, Bucknall and Bagnall with special responsibility for Donisthorpe St Stephen (Leicestershire). The Rev Michael Hart, Team Rector, Caterham (Southwark); to be also Rural Dean of Caterham (same diocese). The Rev David McCullough, Vicar, Halswell St Margaret (Manchester); to be Chaplain, University College of Ripon and York St John (Ripon Campus), and Minor Canon of Ripon Cathedral (same diocese). The Rev Nicholas MacNeill, Team Vicar, Easter St Thomas the Apostle, Emmaus, St Andrew and St Philip (Exeter); to be Vicar, Copple with Willington, and Northall with Mowbray (St Albans). The Rev Mike Saunders, Team Vicar, Eades St Andrew and St Mary the Virgin (Gloucestershire); to be also Vicar in Evangelism (same diocese). The Rev Brian Senec, Curate, Hildesborough St John the Evangelist (Rochester); to be Team Vicar, Tunbridge Wells, St James with St Philip (same diocese). The Rev Andrew Teal, Vicar, Titchfield with St John (Hampshire); to be also Vicar of Readers (same diocese). The Rev Matthew Thompson, Assistant Curate, Cosham St Philip (Bournemouth); to be Curate (known as Senior Assistant Priest), Wallasey Christ Church with Tricetham (Bath and Wells). The Rev Peter Wood, Vicar, Hereford, St Peter with St Owen and St James (Hereford); to be Priest-in-Charge, Chilton Cantelo with Ashington, Muford, Rumpston, and Marston Magna (Gloucestershire). The Rev Michael Wytke, Curate, Huddersfield; to be Priest-in-Charge, Norton sub Hamdon with West Chinnock, Chisborough and Middle Chinnock (Bath and Wells).

Direction to jury not to draw inferences

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

23 JULY 1998

R v McGarry

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hutchison, Mr Justice Scott Baker and the Judge Advocate General) 16 July 1998

WHERE THERE was no question in a criminal trial of leaving the jury to draw inferences from the accused's silence when questioned by police, pursuant to section 34 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, the judge should direct the jury in terms not to draw such inferences.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Patrick John McGarry against his conviction of unlawfully inflicting grievous bodily harm.

The encounter which had led to the charge against the appellant had occurred after the appellant, some of his friends, and a number of other people had been drinking in a club. As the appellant left he had delivered a single punch to the face of the victim. It was the Crown's case that the appellant had made an unprovoked attack on the victim, but the appellant's case was that he had struck him in self-defence.

He was arrested and interviewed after caution, but, on legal advice, refused to answer any questions. Five weeks later, he was re-arrested, cautioned and interviewed again. At the beginning of the interview he handed to the police a short prepared written statement in which he said that following an earlier altercation with the victim, the victim had subsequently lunged at him and that he had punched the victim in self-defence. Thereafter, when questioned, he had simply answered: "No comment".

The appellant gave evidence at his trial, and although cross-examined, was not asked questions about his "no comment" interviews. The stance adopted

by the Crown was that no adverse inferences could properly be drawn under section 34 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 from the appellant's refusal to answer questions in the first interview, and that, with regard to the second interview, once he had given evidence, he had not relied on any new fact not covered by his prepared statement.

The judge ruled after submissions that he would not invite the jury to consider drawing adverse inferences but that he would not direct them not to do so of their own accord. The appellant appealed on the ground, *inter alia*, that the judge should have directed the jury in terms that they should not draw any adverse inference from his failure to answer questions. Rick Holland (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Leonard Webster (Crown Prosecution Services) for the Crown.

Lord Justice Hutchison said that, if the prosecution had accepted that the accused had not in interview failed to men-

tion any fact subsequently relied on in his defence, no question of inviting the jury to draw inferences from his failure to answer some of the questions put to him in that interview could arise. Prosecuting counsel had adopted such a position in the present case, and it seemed that the judge had not considered that he was wrong to do so.

The question was, evidence having been introduced of both a comment interview, what if any direction the judge should have given the jury as to how they should regard the appellant's refusal to answer questions of detail put to him by the police.

The court had concluded that in such a case the judge should specifically direct the jury that they should not draw any adverse inference from the defendant's silence. If that were not done, the jury would be left without any guidance as to how they should regard the defendant's refusal to answer, and that might be seriously prejudicial to him.

The common law rule which required that juries should receive a direction against holding silence after caution against an accused, to which s 34 of the 1994 Act provided a limited modification, plainly recognised that a jury, without such guidance, might treat silence as probative of guilt. They should not, therefore, in a case such as the instant case, be left in a no man's land between the common law principle and the statutory exception in s 34, without any guidance to tell them how to regard the defendant's silence.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
scot-free, adj.

The phrase "scot and lot" (or "lot and scot") also survived from Old English as a tax (or scot) levied according to an individual's means (or lot).

To go scot-free therefore signified a dispensation not to pay taxes or monies owed. Properly speaking, it should only be used in connection with financial considerations, though there is a long tradition of misusing the expression to signify freedom from injury or other undesirable consequences of one's actions.

IT HAS nothing to do with any alleged reluctance of folk north of the border to pay their fair share of bills. The scot in scot-free is a ancient word meaning payment, especially for food or entertainment. Dating back at least to the 13th century, it was used in the 16th and 17th centuries as a term for a local tax.

It starts with name-calling. Where does it end?



BIGOTED BRITANNIA

Racism by Brian Cathcart

The son is 19, tall and heavily built, not to be trifled with. He lives in south-east London, about a mile from where Stephen Lawrence was murdered, and he speaks with the accent of the district. He shares a small, dingy council house with his 17-year-old brother, two sisters aged 16 and 12, and his mother. None of them goes out in the evenings. They are what we call "Asian", although all the children were born in Britain and it is 34 years since the mother left India. ("I never even think of India now," she says.) To a gang of local white kids, however, they are "Pakis", whose lives they make a misery.

It started with name-calling, which is a part of life for a great many Asians. The family had moved to this estate because of harassment in their previous home, and it was in fact an improvement just to be called names.

Then one day the daughters arrived back from school to find four or five white teenagers hanging around in the street, and some stones were thrown at them. The son barged out of the house and confronted the attackers. "I told them if it ever happened again they would get a slapping." He had answered back, and from there it escalated. There have been no more stones, no violence, just threats. A girl taunted him: "Just hit me once and that'll give me the excuse to get people down to do you." Another shouted: "We're gonna get someone to fire-bomb you."

The crowd who hang around near the house has grown in number from five to 15. They follow the son if he goes out, always shouting. Now he is terrified that his sisters or his mother will be attacked if he is not there. His mother is equally terrified that her sons will take on the white kids and be stabbed like Stephen Lawrence, or else be arrested and jailed for assault. They will not move house to escape - they have already tried that.

So they all stay in every night, shut behind their door with its fire-proof letter box, while the local council's 24-hour alarm button glows red in the corner of the living-room. And they are in dread of the summer holidays: "We'll have six or seven weeks of them off school, just hanging around here non-stop."

There you have it: an ordinary little story of racism. What does it tell us about Britishness in the Nineties?

To those involved, it is all about Britishness. What the white kids shout is: "Why don't you go back where you came from?" To which the son would like to say: "I'm born and bred here, and I'm older than them. I've been living here four or five years longer than they have, haven't I? So I reckon that makes me more British than them."

But stories like this, stories of ugly racial harassment, reveal something more important through the reactions they provoke in the wider British public. Here, in no particular order, are five common responses:

1. The police and the justice system should be doing more to deter this by identifying, prosecuting and punishing active racists.

2. The perpetrators of racial harassment and racial violence are a tiny minority in the country, and despite their claims to a super-

ior Britishness, their attitudes have nothing to do with being British.

3. Young racists act in this way because they have been failed by their parents, the education system, the welfare system and the economy. They are frustrated "white trash".

4. Britain's race problems are nowhere near as bad as those elsewhere in Europe: the German neo-Nazis and Le Pen's National Front command millions of votes, while the British National Party has barely more support than the Monster Raving Loonies.

5. Racism in Britain is on its way out. Fifty years after the *Empire Windrush*, this country is adapting to multiculturalism. Look at the successful black people on television, in top-level sport and (belatedly) in politics and public affairs - the effect must be trickling down through society.

Each one of these arguments may be in itself well founded and fair, but together do they not smack uncomfortably of denial? Racism in Britain, they imply, is obscure, marginal, sick and of no real long-term importance. Insofar as it matters at all, it is something for the police to get off their backs and sort out.

The attitude is not easy to square with the facts. Race crime is consistently under-reported, but a study of the figures for 1991 in the British Crime Survey provided estimates of the true picture. In that year there were probably 53,000 instances of racial threats, 26,000 racially motivated acts of vandalism and 32,000 racially motivated assaults. The indicators suggest that things have been getting steadily worse since then.

These are high numbers by any standards - there are nearly 100 assaults per day. Thousands of families, perhaps more than 10,000, are living in fear like the Asian family in south-east London. There are probably more than 100,000 people committing overt racist acts. Racism, in short, is common in Britain and it is on the increase.

What if it is endemic? What if racism, instead of being the outmoded behaviour of a dysfunctional minority, were a part of being British in the Nineties? What if it were deeply ingrained in the modern white British mind? It may be an unattractive thought, but it makes it easier to explain why there is so much racial violence, and, for that matter, why black and Asian people remain so comprehensively disadvantaged in Britain.

Of course, nobody wants to wear such a label. At the inquiry into Stephen Lawrence's murder, the question: "Are you a racist?" was guaranteed to provoke a passionate denial. Most witnesses were offended, hurt and shocked at the suggestion.

They scrambled desperately and often embarrassingly to prove the negative: they had black friends or black relatives, they played football with black people or they went to church with black people.

The problem here is one of definition. What people are so anxious to deny is that they hate black people and are capable of committing malicious acts against them. Obviously most people are not like that.

Let us say instead that most white British



Racism still flourishes in Eltham, south-east London

Peter Macdiarmid

people routinely make assumptions on grounds of race, and that those assumptions tend to reflect a sense of superiority or of fear. What counts, then, is how far you allow those assumptions to influence you, or how far you give expression to them.

Take the case of Conor Taaffe (an Irishman, as it happens, but his story applies just as well). He and his wife saw Stephen Lawrence and his friend Duwayne Brooks running, moments after Stephen was stabbed that night in 1993, and they saw Stephen fall to the ground and Duwayne call for help.

Giving evidence to the inquiry, Mr Taaffe acknowledged that in that instant he hesitated. "The thought flashed across my mind that perhaps it was a ploy."

One would fall down and you would think: "Oh my God, there's something wrong." You would go over, and the other might get you. That did pass through my mind. The Taaffes quickly set aside their fear and crossed the road to give Stephen all the help they could in his dying moments. They did not act as racists, but Mr Taaffe admitted that for a moment he thought as a racist, stereotyping Stephen and Duwayne as muggers because they were young and black.

Every day, millions of assumptions of that kind are made. Who knows what proportion of them are acted upon? One thing is certain: without acknowledging that the assumptions are made, it is much more difficult to set them aside. The whole subject of racial violence is clouded by just this sort of denial: it is to many white people un-British and aberrant, irrational and obscure, and as a result little is done about it. Instead, it is allowed to slip into a twilight zone of neglect. Yet the effects are felt by many thousands of victims like that Asian family, every day of every week. They go on being abused and attacked because white people do not want to listen to them, because white people do not want even to admit that their problem exists.

It does not have to be this way. In the past 15 years, crimes such as child abuse, rape and drink-driving have come to be treated with far greater seriousness in Britain, and that is the result of deliberate acts of self-scrutiny and a preparedness to confront problems previously neglected. If that has not happened with racial violence (and it has not), then perhaps it is because the victims of these crimes are overwhelmingly black and Asian. What could be more racist?

Merry mockery of national heritage

ABSOLUTELY BRITANNIA

The Tudor Revel
by Sanjiv Bhattacharya

LAST SATURDAY afternoon, a swarm of medievalists descended upon the grounds of a stately home in Hertfordshire to take part in a "Tudor Revel".

Donning the mock Tudor garb of jesters, courtiers and basket-weavers, they went about their mock Tudor business while punters milled among them sipping cider, I asked a passing pilgrim - an ambulance controller from north London - what he was trying to achieve.

"People need to learn how we got here," he enthused. "We need to dispel this notion that medieval people were primitives and lived in caves and stuff." He was cut off by a mighty cheer from the jousting arena.

The Black Knight had beaten his drunkard foe and dragged a young girl from Oklahoma into his tent for a mock rumping to the general mirth of the king and his men. (Primitive?) "Anyway," the pilgrim countered. "What are you trying to achieve?"

I was foraging for roots. Born and raised in London by Bengali immigrant parents, I'd traipsed up the M1 in search of some historical precedent for my own blurry sense of Englishness. Somewhere in this living museum of medieval life, I hoped to find glimmers of heritage that would resonate with those aspects of England that make me a proud passport holder - the sharp sense of humour, the pioneering spirit, the fierce sense of history. Though the Tudors weren't my blood ancestors, exactly - rather their descendants went on to shackle my family tree - I was taught their history along with my classmates.

The Revel, however, proved a fruitless hunting ground. The dry sobriety of the few medieval museums I recall visiting at school had been replaced by a burlesque charade of cider, buffoonery and hog roasts. Jesters made faces and fell over, Morris dancers waved hankies and Henry VIII toured the grounds booming like an amateur Brian Blessed, hammering it up with plenty of "good lady this" and "gracing my court that". Not a peep of the Anglo-Saxon oral tradition familiar to me from the terraces at Selhurst Park. But for the ever-present cider queue, the Revel was designed for kiddie appeal. Tudor heritage had been rewritten as a "market scene" with a panto spin.

So, out with the swearing, public hanging and infant mortality, in with the men on stilts and donkeys defecating on the doorstep of Master Robin, the crossbow maker. This cheery, bucolic idyll seems to resemble a 500-year-old version of John Major's tragic vision of England - warm beer, cricket on the village green and policemen on bicycles. But the beer had been replaced by cider and the cricket by jousting. Needless to say, the few Americans in the audience loved it.

The Revel is less about England than the popularisation of history. Similar recreations take place all over Europe and even America, where they re-enact British battles, such as their hankering for heritage. And while it affords hobbyists a chance to dress up of a weekend, England emerges as a nation built on pomp, slapstick and an unnatural obsession with crafts.

Far from point towards the progressive, inventive nation I've found myself defending on holiday, the Revel reeked of the stale romance that surrounds old wisdom - the tiring line that "they did things better in the old days". They didn't, as the English know as well as anyone.

Yet such musty old necessities as basket-weaving and making chain mail armour were portrayed as the centrepiece of medieval England. Chain mail and beards.

The pilgrim, it turned out, was a highly skilled chain mailer himself, still earning a bit of cash on the side by making bras for fetish parties and gloves for butchers. He revealed, in passing, the one lesson of English heritage that I could take with me as I left. "Most of these medieval techniques came from abroad in the first place," he said, "it's hard to tell English armour from European, sometimes. I mean look at that helmet, lovely isn't it? That design was shipped in from Italy."

There's a certain comfort in this wishy-washy conclusion that the English national identity has been coloured by foreign imports, now more so than ever.

For I was one such import, a dash of paprika in the leek and potato soup (or is that Welsh?). I tried to imagine how future revellers would portray England as we know it in 500 years time. Seinfeld videos and Nintendo 64s? Drum and bass and a takeaway from the local curry house? It wouldn't be so bad - the Tudors had Italian, helmets, we've got chicken tikka masala - a recipe original to Bradford.

The author tries on chain mail

Paul Rogers



Uncool, man

JAZZ BRITANNIA

Music for anoraks
by Miles Kingston



even want to. The jazz fan couldn't believe it either. Here was a man who could clear up one of life's great mysteries AND HE WASN'T EVEN INTERESTED.

What the fan couldn't see was that Benny Waters wanted the guy to say how well he was playing now, not how well he was playing in 1928.

It is possible to ignore live music altogether. Philip Larkin, the poet, wrote jazz reviews for the *Telegraph* for years and years, indeed he wrote them at the same time that I was reviewing jazz for the *Times*. However, we never met at any jazz event. This was not bad luck; it was simply because he never went to any jazz event. He reviewed only recorded jazz, not live jazz, and I do not remember his referring in any review to any jazz event he had ever been to. What is interesting is that whereas in any other art

made passionate love, and he's sorry now...

"I don't believe it!" shouts the wife. "You're late because you've been jamming with the lads, haven't you? And now you're covering up!"

The idea of a state of mind in which playing jazz is the ultimate infidelity is a bit unnerving.

The trouble is, I can see the same damned tendency in myself. When I was at school in Scotland, Bishop Trevor Huddleston came to talk to the boys about the evils of apartheid, and he mentioned *en passant* the jazz big band he had enabled his black pupils to get started. The school chaplain said that if anyone had more questions about God or South Africa, he could come up to his study afterwards. I went along with half a dozen others, but whereas they all had religious questions to ask, all I wanted to know was what the line-up of the band was and what sort of stuff they played. Bishop Huddleston told me what I wanted to know and sent me a photograph of the band a few days later, together with a letter in which he warned me not to get too keen on jazz, "which can be like a sort of drug and take you over". I was a bit miffed at the time, but I can see now that he was right.

He breaks down and says OK, she is right - there was this blonde who propositioned him after the gig, and he went back to her place and they

Sarah Price, doctor, 35, London
I am ambivalent about being patriotic. It has huge connotations. The advantages of being British are that you have access to London. And it's a beautiful country, with a great sense of humour and an interesting past. In terms of what it's like to be British, we look more toward the past than to the future and we're not as young and outward-looking as our New World counterparts.

We have a slightly stuffy, can't-do rather can-do mentality and I find that stiff upper lip stuff quite restricting. I like being English because there is something unique about us. I enjoy other countries for their openness, directness and *joie de vivre*. I'd love to be Celtic! There are huge differences between the Irish, Welsh, Cornish and Scottish, and we could learn a bit from them to have a good time.

I don't know whether I am English or London-ish. We are a highly regionalised country. I'd like to have the love of life of the Irish, the culture of London and the openness you get outside the city. I

Rashmi Madan, 29, editor, London
I was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and lived there for two and a half years before we moved to England. People were fleeing in panic because Idi Amin in neighbouring Uganda had ordered all Asians to leave. My grandfather told my father to go to England because he could get a better education for his children. I don't remember much of my life in Kenya, and I feel completely British. Being British, I feel I have been exposed to different

VOX BRITANNIA

How British are you?



things. I have travelled to most Western cultures and my knowledge and education have not been from an underdeveloped country. It is up to the individual to make of it what they want. I had choices. I do take pride in being British, and that came to the fore with the World Cup. I go to all the England matches that I can at Wembley and the friends I go with think it is really embarrassing when I stand up and sing the National Anthem. They are English born and bred but they don't sing it. They say to me, "Don't you think you could calm down a bit?" I like to say I am British because it has connotations of royalty, and it sounds better than English, doesn't it? It sounds grand.

Richard Barnes, 12, schoolboy, Chippenham, Wiltshire
The British complain about the weather. I don't think the British are stylish at all.

I think the Spanish are quite stylish, but the women laugh like seals. I'm proud of Britain because we make really good beer. I like the fact that we don't have to learn any other languages, because Americans and Australians speak English. I like British girls because most of them are babes.

Britpop is rubbish; I don't like the music here. There's not much to do in Britain although places like Blackpool are OK. I don't like our football hooligans but they're not as bad as in Germany where you get neo-Nazis. The English rugby team is OK and the football team is good and in the Olympics we tend to crop up somewhere. I support England and if they get knocked out I'll support Ireland. I'm more English than Irish because we speak English, don't we? I'm proud of the way England discovered parts of the world, such as Australia, but I don't like the way we nicked land. I've got national pride because I live here. The thing I am really proud of in Britain is the cars.

INTERVIEWS BY
CAYTE WILLIAMS

'A prostitute is not a rapist'

Condemnation of childminder Helen Stacey focused on her past convictions for soliciting. But many women working on the streets do so to support their children. And many men who pay for sex are fathers. By Jack O'Sullivan



Helen Stacey, condemned for the wrong reasons?

KIM HAS avidly followed the news over the past few days. She is pre-occupied with Helen Stacey's murder conviction for shaking six-month-old Joseph Mackin so hard that he died. Like any other mother, she has found her concerns about childminders reawakened. It reminds her of when she withdrew her own daughter from a carer, because she was not providing good meals. "It is so difficult to know you are leaving a child in a safe place," she says. "Especially a baby, because a baby can't tell you what has been happening while you have been away."

But the case worries her for another reason. Kim is a prostitute, as was Helen Stacey at one time. And the reporting of the Stacey case - with headlines such as "Vice girl secret of child killer" - has exposed a media assumption that prostitutes are unfit to be mothers. The implication of a lot of coverage is: "How could an ex-prostitute be allowed to register as a childminder?"

It is a view that may make sense to some. Not to Kim, a single mother who has been soliciting for eight years, since her early twenties. "One of the reasons I became a 'working girl' was to support my daughter," she says. "I felt it would be flexible work and would fit in with being a mother. It's better than a nine-to-five job, which often doesn't allow for child-hood illness and school holidays."

Kim is also aware of hypocrisy in the media coverage. Many of her clients are fathers. "They go back to their families after being with me, as though nothing has happened. Some say it doesn't affect their relationships. They don't see themselves as being unfaithful if they are paying for sex. I have never seen guilt."

And she does not think these

men are exceptional. She is convinced that most men pay for sex at some time in their lives. "If I had only one type of guy coming along then I would say it's just a certain sort of man. But I see men of every race, age and class - good-looking guys, disabled guys. They are all ready to pay for sex."

Nevertheless, it is women who run the risks as parents. "It's a big fear among working women that they will lose their children." As the English Collective of Prostitutes says: "It is much easier to be declared an unfit parent if you are a woman working as a pros-

'It is much easier to be declared an unfit parent if you are a woman working as a prostitute than if you are a violent father'

stitute than if you are a violent father." This is clearly a big worry to many prostitutes, 70 per cent of whom may be mothers.

Most of these women choose to have a baby with their partner rather than becoming pregnant accidentally by a client. "In all the years I have worked," says Kim, "I have only ever come across one case of a prostitute having a child with a client." She herself conceived her daughter during a long-standing relationship, before she began soliciting.

Kim recalls the risks mothers run of losing their children. She describes what happened to a fellow prostitute. "She went to the social services because she wasn't coping with life. She had emotional problems aside from prostitution. They should have supported her. But then she blurted out how she was making her money, and they were disgusting to her. They took her two children away."

All of which helps explain why

I probably would not recognise Kim if I passed her in the street with her daughter, even though we have spent more than an hour discussing intimate aspects of her life. Dressed in a smart cotton trouser suit, with large dark glasses and a blond wig, she is obsessed with keeping her identity and her work secret. She commutes from the West Country to see her clients in London and other parts of the country, keeping as discreet a distance from home as possible.

"I get frightened as soon as a link is made between prostitution

and a crime," she says. "It was wrong for the papers to pick up that Helen Stacey was a prostitute and suggest that was why she was unfit to care for children. She has been found guilty of a terrible crime, but it doesn't add up that prostitution made her that way."

"It would be terrible if this case were used to prevent women who have been prostitutes earlier in their lives from working with children. A lot of prostitutes go into caring jobs. I know women who have gone on to work with the elderly or have gone into nursing. We do caring work, believe it or not. We have a lot of patience, even with people who may get on your nerves. I'm not going to be a working girl for the rest of my life."

Kim is less worried now about losing her child than she was in the past. Her daughter is now of secondary school age, so social workers are less likely to become concerned about her. But she fears that the options for her

going into other caring industries are already diminishing. "If you are cautioned or prosecuted for prostitution, you're recorded as a sex offender. You're on the same list as paedophiles, people who abuse children or rape. But a prostitute isn't a rapist. We are not abusers." It is a categorisation that prostitutes are currently lobbying the Home Office to change.

Kim herself has worked with mentally ill people, though not with children other than her own daughter. At one time, she says, she wanted to become a child-minder, but decided against it for fear that her working life might be revealed to her daughter and family, who know nothing of what she does for a living.

"My daughter would have an awful lot to contend with. It would be difficult for her if it were known at school what I do. It's not that I am ashamed of what I do; it's just that it's easier if she does not have to cope with the stigma."

She has been cautioned in the past. "I don't know whether it is still on my records. When I go for a straight job, I won't tell them about it. But obviously, if they found out, it would go against me."

These considerations often make it hard for women to get out of prostitution, says Cari Mitchell, of the English Collective of Prostitutes. She points out that the reporting of the Helen Stacey murder trial has been very different from that of the Louise Woodward case, in which doubt was constantly thrown on the conviction. "Helen Stacey was convicted on similar medical evidence. So you have to ask yourself why she has been treated so differently. One reason why the press has been so ready to condemn is because she was a prostitute."

POETIC LICENCE

LIFE IN THE BUS LANE
BY MARTIN NEWELL

The Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's White Paper on transport aims to cool the public's ardour for the motor car

She does the school run in the rain And parks up in your cycle lane Then tips you if you dare complain Will Prescott make her whole again

By setting up an eco-nurse And tell her things are getting worse? Threaten, tax, cajole, coerce To net her conscience and her purse?

No. To cycle's good and fine If the sun should deign to shine But to drive the car's divine And the four-wheel is her shrine

Now what about young Matey-boy Whose Escort is his darling toy? You'd part him from his pride and joy To bus it with the hoi polloi?

New wisdom from the Transport Tsar Delivered from his Jaguar While TV ads purr: "Buy a car And pull this bird in Wonderbra."

And though more conscientious voters Might succumb to driving rotas Right from Lada up to Lotus Drivers hate to share their motors

And headlamps will caress the drives Of gridlocked Britain and its wives Until the Reeper's cab arrives To free them from their wretched lives



'Drivers hate to share their motors'

Should I tell my daughter to leave her husband?

WHEN CHILDREN are tiny, parents have to protect them from their own mistakes. You don't stand back and let your three-year-old shove his fingers into the electric light socket and hope that the shock he gets will "teach" him that it's not a wise move. You don't let him toddle across the motorway until he "learns" that doing so only leads to painful accidents. Or worse.

But as children grow up you slowly allow them to make their own boos. As they turn into teenagers, you may suggest, if your daughter has an argument with a friend, that an apology usually works. If she wants to resume the friendship, you may say that it is probably wise not to sleep around because it does not lead to happiness.

But during adolescence, you gradually allow her to start the most difficult parenting of all - the hands-off parenting, where you are simply there all the time to offer general pieces of advice, and be there to pick up the pieces if they make the wrong move.

Angela is still on the "Don't put your fingers in the socket" type of parenting, and she is way off beam. Of course, it is incredibly hard not

to hate people who make your children miserable. No doubt Angela would like to hang her son-in-law from piano wire while applying a cigarette to the soles of his feet. But how would she feel if, let's say, her husband made her miserable by shouting at her during a stressful period in his life, and her daughter suddenly disowned him?

People can make mistakes. Shouting is not the end of the world unless it goes on for ever. Infidelity is painful, but some women can cope, for all kinds of reasons. Perhaps they are terrified of being on their own; perhaps they want a father for their child; perhaps they like married life and all the dinner-party trimmings that go with it; perhaps, deep down, they are still in love.

A mother's job, when a daughter is grown up, is to be a ballroom dancing partner to her, as far as she can. When her daughter gets married she should welcome her son-in-law into the family fold, even if he is twice her age, has been married eight times before, and drinks like a fish.

When her daughter has been made miserable by him, Angela should be there with cocoa and roar-

ing fires to comfort her. She could even join in conversations about what a shit her son-in-law is. And when her daughter decides to go back, she should welcome her son-in-law as if he's an erring sheep who's returned to the fold.

She should bind him to her with charm and friendliness so that if he's tempted to stray again, he thinks twice about giving up such a gorgeous, loving family background. In other words, how Angela reacts actually adds to the stability of the marriage, and behaving like a sulky child will only put stress on the relationship between her daughter and son-in-law.

Perhaps Angela feels rather silly about having to change her attitude so often. It is always awkward for friends, who often say such awful things as "I never could see what you saw in him", when a girlfriend splits from her partner, to have to pretend they never said it when the pair get back together again.

But, finally, if Angela gets so angry about people making her daughter unhappy, how dare she make her daughter unhappy herself by behaving in such a controlling, pig-headed way?

DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

Devastated by her husband's infidelity, Angela's daughter came to stay with her parents for a month, bringing her child. Now she has gone home, and is giving her husband a second chance. Angela has begged her daughter to get rid of him; she cannot bear to think of her being made unhappy again. She refuses to have her son-in-law in the house after what he has done. But her husband disagrees

What readers say:

I HAD an affair in my thirties when I was totally dazzled by a man I met and fell in love with. I tried to keep up a normal front but I am sure my husband knew. After the affair was over, I simply carried on with him and we resumed the process of growing closer together.

In his eighties he died suddenly but I do not mourn him much; I am just grateful that he suffered no long terminal illness. Rarely does an hour pass without a flicker of pleasure at something that reminds me of him. I never think about that silly affair.

We had nearly 50 years together, and by the end were virtually one person. The shadow of death passed over our thoughts and words sometimes, for neither could endure the thought of losing the other, but even that passed.

Thank God there was no interfering parent-in-law who sought to persuade him to leave me.

IRENE London

and you are not one of them. Whether or not your daughter and her husband rebuild their marriage depends on them alone; so does the effect of the outcome on their child.

JOHN PELLING Kedington, Suffolk

MY HUSBAND had an affair after we had been very happily married for seven years.

After a lot of heart-searching, he decided that he would try to save our marriage. I was able to forgive him and we began to rebuild our relationship. It has not been easy; it takes a long time to re-establish trust and for hurts to be healed.

That was 12 years ago. My husband has remained faithful. I love him very much and we are very committed to one another.

As a mother you must support your daughter's decision to forgive her husband. They need all the love, encouragement and help that you and your husband can give. Put the past behind and help them in every way possible to rebuild their lives.

ELIZABETH Bristol

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, My wife has given me an ultimatum about my drinking. Either I give up, or she leaves. I know I have to do something about it, as it is slowly getting out of hand. I drink about a bottle of brandy a day, and a bottle of wine, and I can't get up without a drink. I know I have a problem. Where can I get help? All the clinics seem to be based on the lines of Alcoholics Anonymous. I just couldn't deal with that. Is there a pill I can take? Would hypnosis work? Eric

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interferra. Send your comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside, Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail: dilemmas@independent.co.uk, by Tuesday morning

When the Merc just has to go

Why Gary Barlow has joined the Golf club. By Matt Seaton



IT IS called being a victim of your own success. Earlier this month it emerged that the singer-songwriter Gary Barlow had traded in his £75,000 black S-class Mercedes for a second-hand VW Golf.

There must be some classic music industry cautionary tale of riches to rags here: the advance going up the nose, the album bombing and the dodgy manager scarping when the inland revenue calls. But in Barlow's case nothing could be further from the truth: after the Take That split in 1996, his first solo album, *Open Road*, sold 2 million copies world-wide, to lever him into the Top 40 of Britain's wealthiest recording artists, with a fortune estimated at £2m.

So why did he get shot of the Merc? Simply because it was more trouble than it was worth, according to his agent, Graham Hill: in the seven months Barlow had the car, commuting between his estate in Cheshire, his flat in London and engagements in London and Manchester, he was stopped by the police 51 times - that's almost twice a week.

Yet Barlow was never once charged with a motoring offence. Often the coppers would ask him for an autograph when they realised that the 24-year-

old they had pulled over was not a car thief or a drug dealer but the squire of Delamere Manor. A spokesperson for the police force in Barlow's home county of Cheshire says, "It may be his standard of driving was appalling, or he wasn't wearing his seatbelt or something, but without specific instance - where and when he was stopped - we can't comment."

It wasn't just the unwanted attention of the traffic cops that got Barlow down. Hardly a week went by when the car was not keyed. And the three-pointed Daimler-Benz star on the bonnet soon disappeared. The problem is that black Mercedes are used by all the limo

companies to ferry celebrities from hotel to studio to arena to premiere - automatically exciting the very stars that its smoked-glass windows are intended to foil.

The Golf, on the other hand, is second-hand and a bit scuffed. "He loves his Golf," says Barlow's agent, "just the fact that it's completely and utterly anonymous." The desire for anonymity is ordinary: just last week, Jonathan Edwards, the champion triple-jumper, returned his Porsche because he had found he disliked driving a car with such a brash image. Presumably after his World Cup débacle, David Beckham must be thinking of trading in his white 911. Anything for a quiet life.

The irony of Barlow's situation is that, in his pretty-boy-next-door way, he hardly looked conspicuous to begin with. But what is really working against him is not so much his youth as his gender.

It is different for girls. The Spice Girls have Mercedes, and you can bet they don't get pulled over twice a week. Jane MacDonald celebrated her

album going in at number one by splashing out on a bright red convertible Merc. Blue Peter's Katy Hill loves her Porsche Boxster, as does Meg Matthews (a gift from Noel when she passed her test). And it is not just the young women who like flash wheels: Elaine Paige has just exchanged her Mercedes for a Jaguar XK8. Even Germaine Greer drives a Merc.

There may, of course, be some truth in the implicit perception that joyriders and car thieves are nearly always male, but the idea that all women are slow, careful, religiously law-abiding motorists needs updating. You suspect that some ambivalent attitudes underpin the notion that women do not commit auto crime - in particular, an assumption that a woman at the wheel of a flash motor is there because she is driving her husband's car.

No wonder Pay Weldon is sorry for men these days. While women are blasting past in their soft-top sports cars, the sad old geezers are reduced to chugging along in the slow lane in their beaten-up hatchbacks. Unwittingly, Barlow has joined Generation Golf: the grungy end of the automotive food chain. At least he is in reasonable company: Damon Albarn and Suggs drive Golfs, too.

CLASSIFIED

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On the edges of madness

Mervyn Peake lived life at its extremes, whether as a patient in a mental hospital or as a war artist in Belsen. But *Gormenghast*, his classic trilogy, has always had mass appeal. By Liz Jensen

THE SUFFERING artist who sacrifices his own mental stability in the quest for an aesthetic ideal is a familiar, almost romantic figure in our culture. But there is nothing beguiling about the financial hardship, or the depression, that are its most distinctive hallmarks. For Mervyn Peake, creator of the famous *Gormenghast* trilogy, those twin realities became a horror story.

"I have played too much around the edges of madness..." he wrote to his beloved wife, Maeve. "I will never write about mad people again." The letter itself was written from one of the mental institutions where he spent much of the last decade of his life, in painful mental disarray, having created a body of work that was to bring him to real fame only after his death.

As a writer, Mervyn Peake stood in a category all of his own. It was a lonely place to be. Quentin Crisp, a friend and admirer, says of Peake's darkly playful imagination: "I don't think he knew it was grim. I think he thought it was enchanted. But everything turned out sinister, strange."

That is to put it mildly. Peake - an artist and illustrator as well as a poet, novelist and playwright - was a creative genius whose imagination flourished at the outer limits of consciousness.

He was raised in China and, growing up in a missionary hospital, he was exposed early to the macabre physical abnormalities wrought by tropical disease. Like Flaubert before him, he would watch his doctor father performing surgical operations - including amputations. Like Flaubert, he was to be both fascinated and horrified by the spectacle.

The Chinese culture that surrounded him was also to feed his already fertile imagination; throughout his work there are evocations of the sumptuous and complex rituals enacted in traditional Chinese ceremonies.

It is possible that another seed was planted in childhood, too - that of a neurological disorder, *encephalitis lethargica*, which his family believes was part of his long final illness. In fact, Peake was never given a clear diagnosis of what was wrong with him.

The problems began while he was still a young man. During the Second World War, Peake, who had been working as an artist and illustrator, found the discipline of life in the army petty and baffling. In his barracks, he began *Titus Groan*, the first novel of his trilogy, which he sent to his wife in notebooks, accompanied by drawings and doodles. It was soon after writing about the mental breakdown of Sepulchre, the Earl of Gormenghast, that Peake succumbed to his own version. Many writers and artists suffer periodically from some form of mental illness - usually depression. There has always been a debate about whether it is their instability that fosters their creativity - or their creativity that drives them barmy. But instability and creativity aside, when you add Belsen to the mix, you surely have a recipe for disaster.

It was Augustus John who recommended Peake as a war artist at the start of the war. He was sent to Belsen a few weeks after its liberation in 1945. His job was to record the horror in portrait after portrait, of starved, dying Jews.

Peake was perhaps the last person in the world who should have been sent to witness Belsen. "It's almost as though Peake found in the external world evidence of what had been going on in his imagination beforehand," says his biographer, Professor John Batchelor. "Belsen brought him up

short." It was at Belsen that Peake's worst nightmares had come true. It was an experience from which, according to his daughter Clara, he never recovered.

But there were further blows to come. Despite having won a prestigious Society of Literature Award for his second *Groan* novel, *Gormenghast*, in 1961, Peake still made little money from his work, which sold poorly during his lifetime. If it had not been for his wife's private income and the salary he received from the Central School of Art, where he worked as a teacher, the Peake family would have been unable to make ends meet.

Peake became convinced that he should be more commercial, and set about writing for the theatre. It took five years for his play, *The Wit To Woo*, to reach the stage - and when it did, it received only mediocre reviews. Peake was devastated.

"He was shaking uncontrollably and in a terrible state," says his daughter, recalling the sight of him the next morning. The failure of the play triggered another bout of depression, and a period of insanity followed.

"All will come right and we will storm the citadels together," he wrote to Maeve from the mental hospital. "This is going to be a great spring in our lives."

But it was not to be. By the age of 46, Peake had lost his mind for good. It seems miraculous that he managed to write *Titus Alone*, the last book of the trilogy, at all. As it was, he was too ill to make any of the changes his publisher would have liked. It was his last work and, inevitably, it is deeply flawed.

It would be wrong to suggest that Peake's life was a story of untrammelled misery. There was great happiness as well as great disappointment and confusion. He received some critical recognition in his own lifetime, both as a visual artist and a writer. He had a family he adored.

The last 11 years of his life, however, saw a terrible and rapid decline. In 1968, coshed by repeated electro-convulsive therapy and a disastrous brain operation, he

died. He was 57. He looked 20 years older. Peake's great legacy was *Gormenghast*, whose popularity soared only after his death. It has never been out of print since.

Besides the trilogy, he left a body of work - novels, poems, paintings and illustrations - which were the products of a mind that was finally

unable to cope with its own fecundity. His own words, which form the title of a poem, speak from his gravestone. "To live at all," he wrote, "is miracle enough."

Bookmark: Mervyn Peake. Saturday 25 July 1998, 8.10-9.00 pm, BBC2.



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Travels in time

IMAGINE A monologue that shuttles between, say, a trip to a concentration camp and a jaunt to Alton Towers and you have some sense of the switchback tone of *2.5 Minute Ride*, an autobiographical, one-woman show written and presented by the performance artist Lisa Kron. The piece, conveyed as a gossip talk with

THEATRE

2.5 MINUTE RIDE
BARBICAN
LONDON

slides, juggles accounts of two very different journeys. In one, Kron accompanies her father on a visit to Auschwitz, where his parents, who had sent him for safety to the US in 1937, died. The other is the Kron family's annual trip to an amusement park. Here, her father, a blind septuagenarian with a heart condition, delights in riding roller-coasters.

With a winningly open manner and a fast delivery, Kron treats us to some very funny, affectionately exasperated snapshots of her eccentric relations: her chronically camera-shy, ceremony-shunning mother ("when I came out as a lesbian, I am sure one of her first thoughts was, 'Oh, thank God, I won't have to go to her wedding'"); the grandmother who stuffed her house with cosmetics because she felt sorry for the Avon lady; the brother who, residing among wall-to-wall Gentiles in Lansing, Michigan, had to resort to the Internet to find a Jewish bride.

It is her father, though, who is the principal focus and, given the dramatic cultural uprooting of his childhood, that focus is blurred. Kron likens his long American existence to "a translucent overlay that doesn't quite match up". At her brother's nuptials, where she finds herself sobbing volitionally alongside all the sentimental straight, she gazes at her father and sees a little old man who has lost his country, parents and culture, "all gone forever and this was the closest he was ever going to come to it again and it didn't feel like enough and it felt like too much for me".

Like *Kindertransport*, Diane Samuels' recent play about the long-term effects on those Jewish children evacuated to safety, *2.5 Minute Ride* looks at what remains unresolved in the sense of identity of such people, here from the perspective of a daughter troubled by the limits of her power to offer consolation.

It is the honesty of the piece that impresses as much as the resilient, quirky humour. Kron admits that she felt euphoric relief immediately after the distressing Auschwitz visit. But then, in a gruesomely ironic cock up, it turned out that the old man had left his bag of eyeglasses behind and she had to make a nerve-racking return. It is almost too glaring a demonstration that some business is never finished.

Kron, a founder member of the Five Lesbian Brothers company, brings to the subject of Holocaust survival a refreshing refusal to presume privileged insight. By presenting her father's deepest feelings as beyond her grasp, she paradoxically does him proud. Never remotely pious *2.5 Minute Ride* is an act of filial piety. Booking: 0171-638 8891

PAUL TAYLOR

Animatronic animals? Mere child's play

HUGH LOFTING wrote the *Doctor Dolittle* books out of a profound hatred of war and of the way that we treat animals. At the time, he was sitting in the mud of Flanders trying to find a way to write to his children. His eccentric doctor, who could talk to the animals, might then have seemed strange - a peace-loving vegetarian who really believed that all animals are equal. Now that such sentiments are everyday, we are in for a *Doctor Dolittle* revival. There is the new film version starring Eddie Murphy, and the musical at the Apollo. The great pull of the live show is that the animals have been created animatronically by the Jim Henson Creature Workshop. It would be cruel, I suppose, in a show that repeatedly tells us that animals are just the same as us, to use real animals.

Anyway, it has to be said that real animals just are not as cute as some of the creatures on show here.

Phillip Schofield, whom I have always rather liked but who, according to my young companion Amelia, is "the most annoying man in the whole wide world and I know that for a fact", plays the doctor. Yet all the actors, though efficient enough, are inevitably overshadowed by the real stars - the animatronic animals. The whole production is a prolonged "How do they do that?" number. How do they make a swooning pig? A dog that can jump? A horse that looks so completely horse-like?

As you might expect from an all-singing, all-dancing animal rights manifesto, the whole thing is rather humourless. Schofield is just too nice to be as edgy or as funny as Rex

Dr Dolittle may be the talk of the town, but what do the target audience think? Suzanne Moore and her children find out

Harrison was in the original film. Many of the sentiments are rather pat: all animals are good; they work for us to give us milk and meat; all fox-hunting is bad. My vegetarian kids already believe this with a religious zeal so none of it seemed in any way controversial. Yet you cannot help wondering what kind of vision of animal life is being sold here. False animals are preferable to real ones. Some of the animals are cartoonlike, such as the "pushmi-pullyu", described by my kids as "a bit lame", while others are intended to be as lifelike as possible. For all

its preachiness, this is as much a fantasy about animals as any Disney movie. For this, remember, is a world where seals have husbands, and they are called things like Nigel.

The highlights of the show are, of course, the unreal animals of all, like the giant pink snail that miraculously changes its expressions. My kids gave the show nine out of 10 and, while I found it flat in places, I can confidently say that you would have to take a lot of drugs to replicate the feeling of having Phillip Schofield hovering above your head on a psychedelic giant lunar moth.



How do they do that? The human stars of 'Dr Dolittle'

VIDEO WATCH

MIKE HIGGINS

Wings of the Dove (15)

Available to rent now
Or "Helena Turns Nasty". In Iain Softley's adaptation of Henry James's novel, Bonham Carter plays a penniless ingénue, unhappily dependent upon a rich aunt, Charlotte Rampling, who disapproves of her relationship with a skint hack, Linus Roache. When a terminally ill heiress falls for Roache, though, Bonham Carter spies a way out of her financial servitude and encourages the relationship.

You would be forgiven for not jumping for Edwardian joy at the prospect of yet another period drama, but Softley stays faithful to the novel's grubby conceit. Anyone reared on Merchant Ivory turn-of-the-century London and Venice may find the gloomy cities and their overrated inhabitants a shock. Softley, though, is careful to show how the prospect of disinheritance leads Bonham Carter and Roache inexorably into their sexual manoeuvring, drawing out fine performances from all concerned in the process.

Devil's Advocate (18)

Available to rent now
Has no one realised that Al Pacino has been pulling a fast one



The prospect of disinheritance looms heavy over 'The Wings of the Dove'

for the past 15 years? At least here he has had the good grace to find a vehicle equal in bombast to his now-customary overblown performances. Pacino plays a libidinous American tycoon called John Milton who hires a young provincial lawyer, Keanu Reeves, and lures him to New

York. As it turns out, Milton is not so much "of the devil's party" as Old Nick himself. He swiftly bestows favours - a swish apartment, the choicest legal cases - on Reeves, who finds himself increasingly ill at ease with his Faustian fast track.

The director, Taylor Hackford,

can't seem to make up his mind whether he is mounting a satire on American corporate values or a would-be metaphysical thriller, but over the course of 139 minutes such indecision becomes an infernal bore. Reeves, again, is miscast - he may well find multiplex fare such as *Speed*

beneath him, but that is where he belongs - and the screenplay's satanic inclinations are only fitfully diverting - a skyscraper update of Christ's mountain-top temptation works but is Milton's passing acquaintanceship with Don King the height of evil?

The Borrowers (U)

Available to rent now
Peter Hewitt's free adaptation of Mary Norton's novels is a delight. When Ockius P Potter, this week's second nasty lawyer, threatens to evict a family from their home, he is also unknowingly about to put the Clock family out on the street. As Borrowers, the miniature Clocks depend upon their larger hosts' leftovers for their existence. There is little out of the ordinary in the plot; the Clocks and the son of their outsize benefactors collaborate to stymie Potter.

Hewitt is careful not to sacrifice the talents of John Goodman as Potter, and Jim Broadbent and Celia Imrie as the Clock parents, to ostentatious special effects. It is also nice to see, amongst all the fun, Gemma Jackson's remarkable vision of a kind of Anglo-American parallel universe.

GALLERY WEEK

QUAY ARTS CENTRE
NEWPORT
ISLE OF WIGHT

THE ADVERTISEMENT read: "Confess all on video. Intrigued?" call Gillian.

Members of the public duly stepped forward, and the Turner Prize winner Gillian Wearing got to work. The end result is now on show at the Quay Arts gallery in Newport, Isle of Wight. Those interviewed are in disguise, but from behind the fright wigs, false noses and comical masks, harrowing, unsettling facts emerge. Sexual confusion, acts of revenge, secret obsessions are all given an airing. "I'm always trying to find ways of discovering things about people, and about myself," Wearing says.

To make the exhibition as interactive as possible, visitors themselves are asked to confess. To date, more than 100 confessions have been received and are displayed on the gallery walls. All have been typed up to ensure anonymity - the Isle of Wight is a small place and handwritten messages could easily be recognised.

Although less raw and dramatic than Wearing's subjects, responses have run the gamut from the silly to the sad:

"I confess I find Rod Stewart strangely endearing"; "I confess I think modern art is a load of rubbish"; "I confess there is not a plaster to put on the pain I have."

"We are trying to get people to think about the exhibition, but also to have the sense of taking part in an exhibition themselves," explains Phillip Cundall, the organiser, who believes that for many, the chance to confess has been cathartic.

A second video by Wearing, her prizewinning *Sixty Minutes Silence*, is also being shown. It captures the efforts of a group of policemen and women to remain stock still for a whole hour.

"It's clear from the comment book that some people don't necessarily like the exhibition," admits Cundall, "but they do find it thought-provoking and stimulating. Whether or not they think it's great art is another question."

'Confess All on Video' is at Quay Arts, Newport, Isle of Wight (01983 822490) until Saturday 25 July

KATE MIKHAIL

FILM

Shiftless in Savannah

THE BIG PICTURE



BOYD TONKIN

THE GINGERBREAD MAN
(15)
DIRECTOR: ROBERT ALTMAN
STARRING: KENNETH BRANAGH, EMBETH DAVIDTZ

THE LAST time that Robert Altman built a film around an errant man of law, the chemical son of Los Angeles slammed down on Elliott Gould's Philip Marlowe in his updated version of *The Long Goodbye*. A quarter of a century on, Hurricane Gerardo blows in sheet after sheet of sub-tropical rain over sultry Savannah, soaking Kenneth Branagh's yuppie scumbag of a lawyer.

In *The Gingerbread Man*, a typically machine-tooled story by John Grisham supplants the hand-crafted prose of Raymond Chandler as Altman's source. Meanwhile, the weather down those mean streets has taken a sharp turn for the worse. This has more to do with the grand old pathetic fallacy than the steam-bath microclimate of the elegantly wasted Georgia city that now makes as much cash from locations as it once did from plantations. (Anyone who saw Clint Eastwood's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* will feel some powerful pangs of déjà vu.)

A short history of the mood-enhancing downpour in film noir might begin with the brewing hurricane in John Huston's *Key Largo*, move through the twin drenchings of *Cape Fear*, marks one (J Lee Thompson) and two (Martin Scorsese), and close with the biblical torments of David Fincher's *Seven*. Altman joins these stormy troupers with a gusto which - mixed with the mahogany interiors designed by Stephen Altman, the director's son - strongly suggests a burg where the ethical barometer has plunged.

It works well enough, but you soon wonder why this innovator is making do with such a hammy ruse. And then you wonder what - beside necessity - drew Altman to this dampish, low-pressure project in the first place.

Branagh, sporting a plausible Georgia drawl and an implausible ginger beard that makes him look like an apprentice Robin Cook, plays Rick Magruder, a cocky little jack-rabbit of an adulterous attorney. He celebrates his victory in a case



Robert Downey Jr., who plays a boozy barfly of a private detective, is denied the chance to act Kenneth Branagh off the rain-soaked set of Robert Altman's waterlogged *The Gingerbread Man*

against the cops by spending the night with a waitress who served at the celebration bash. Embeth Davidtz (last seen by most of us catering to wicked Ralph Fiennes in *Schindler's List*) has the frantic, hunted air that links her to Altman's long-term taste for kooky female leads. She also has a pretty demented pa in the shape of Robert Duvall, no less, who hangs out with his gang of shaggy Survivalist bath-dodgers in the woods.

Wacko (indeed, Waco) Dad seems to be stalking his own daughter. We even see a strung-up kitty as the proof. Driven by mingled lust and guilt, Branagh bends the rules to help his extramarital squeeze - under the disapproving gaze of his

legal partner Daryl Hannah, acting serious with mousy hair and beer-bottle specs. For some eccentric back-up, he even calls in Robert Downey Jr's boozy barfly of a private dick (how's that for typecasting?).

After his kids go missing, Branagh packs heat and heads into the trees for a sudden showdown in the Duvall camp. Now the trademark Grisham twist kicks in - and we remember that no dripping noir would be complete without its slippery femme fatale. Stung and strung along, Branagh ends up puffing at an on-screen fog. Nowadays you don't sink lower than that.

At one point, a good ol' boy growls at Branagh: "You got yourself into a whole bucketful of shit here, Ma-

gruder". Well, I wouldn't go quite that far. Yet the routine level of so much in *The Gingerbread Man* does disappoint on every front. Earnest, fussy, self-enclosed, Branagh sucks in energy like a cinematic black hole. Quite why this incandescent stage actor dies on screen in non-Shakespearean roles is a mystery to rank with his willingness to wear that stupid tawny fuzz. It is less of a puzzle why the magisterial Duvall and the waywardly gifted Downey have damn all to do around these parts. Altman knows that, given his head, either of them could act Branagh off the set and half-way down the Savannah river.

Yet the buck has to stop in the director's chair. In Hollywood, no good

deed ever goes unpunished. And Altman's scandalous virtue was to sketch, through 25 years of golden moments, from *M*A*S*H* to *Short Cuts*, a loose-limbed, free-form ensemble cinema that mocked the studio dogmas of character and cause. The orchestrator of *Nashville* and *The Player* brought chaos theory to the movies while most films still treated people and events as if they were Newtonian snooker-balls. Listen to the proto-bop jam session in his last work, *Kansas City*, and you will hear in jazz the kind of vagabond polyphony that Altman sought on screen.

The moguls punished Altman with exclusion and contempt. The critics flayed him with accusations

of misanthropy. After the failure of *Popeye*, Altman corrected himself by strapping on the corset of theatre adaptations (*Fool for Love*, *Beyond Therapy*). With a tight-laced Grisham plot, he has swapped a corset for a straitjacket.

It does not sprawl or wander as the Altman of old would have. Neither does it ever really catch alight. This is a waterlogged venture in more ways than one.

Odd fragments remind you that here we have a great director marking time. When Altman's camera lingers on the masks at a quayside fair, when he dwells on a pair of giggling floodies in a bar, when Duvall's buddies spring him from an asylum in a weird nocturnal dance of silver

and purple tints - then we glimpse the fugitive ghost of another, less formulaic sort of film.

What sort of film, exactly? When it came to sharing out the Savannah scripts, someone clearly blundered. Clint made a clumsy, cliché-ridden fist of *Midnight in the Garden* - yet John Berendt's rambling mosaic of a book cried out for Altman's fluid touch.

Conversely, Eastwood and Grisham could have formed a square-jawed partnership without tormenting us with might-have-beens. So the studios handed out the wrong jobs to the wrong people.

Now there's one plot that never twists, come rain or shine.

Ryan Glibey returns next week

ALSO SHOWING

HANA-BI (18) ■ THE DAYTRIPPERS (15) ■ THE CASTLE (15) ■ PAULIE (U)
■ THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U) ■ DANCE TO THE WIND (U)

The imperfect crime

IN JAPAN, Takeshi Kitano is best known as a TV personality and stand-up comedian, but you would never guess it from watching one of his films. As an actor he rarely speaks, or even moves his face.

The same minimalist approach extends to his direction: he shoots his characters square on, seldom moves the camera, and leaves much of the action off screen, evoked with a splash of blood or the crunch of a china vase. He is the Raymond Carver of the Japanese crime movie.

In *Hana-Bi*, which won the Golden Lion at Venice last year, Kitano plays Nishi, a policeman whose wife is dying of leukaemia. When Nishi ducks out of a stakeout to visit her in hospital, his partner is shot and crippled while covering for him. To care for them both, Nishi resorts to borrowing from the yakuza, then to bank robbery. With the proceeds, he takes his wife on a final holiday, but his past soon catches up with him.

The plot might sound formulaic, but Kitano's touch is so sure that any melodrama is distilled out of the film. Shooting on a shoestring, largely in the back of the car, Mottola makes the most of the limitations. "That was the world's shortest car chase," quips Posey when Dad insists on stopping on amber, so letting their quarry escape. But it is as a writer that he really shines, gradually sketching in the sadness beneath the family squabbles. The cast respond with winning performances, not least a suave cameo from Campbell Scott as an amorous New York novelist.

For a more affectionate, but equally acute, look at family life, try *The Castle*, the tale of an

Australian family's legal battle to save their beloved clapboard bungalow from demolition when the neighbouring airport expands. With their bad hair, DIY obsession and pet greyhounds, the Kerrigans are not much more than working-class caricatures. But where the director, Rob Sitch, and his co-writers excel is in capturing the rhythms of family chat, the way catchphrases ("I'm only stating the truth") and achingly dull exchanges become surreally hil-

pathetic janitor, the downtrodden Russian immigrant Misha (Oleg Shalobov). The revelation that Misha was a literature professor in the old country hints that we're in for something more than anthropomorphic farce and, against all expectations, Paulie's quest to be reunited with the stuttering little girl he once helped to speak proves to be a wistful tale of loss and the importance of speaking up for yourself.

An Arthurian adventure about Kayley, a knight's daughter who tracks down Excalibur to earn her place at the Round Table, *The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot* is the first full-length product of Warner Bros's new animation division. It looks and sounds cheesier than the worst of Disney, but there is an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep adults entertained - or just perplexed.

In Rajan Khosla's *Dance to the Wind*, Indian TV star Kiku Gidwani plays Pallavi, a singer of Hindustani classical music who dries up on stage following her mother's death. The ethereal music and stately camera-work help build a hypnotic atmosphere as Pallavi tries to come to terms with her bereavement. But even at 85 minutes, this feels like a short film dragged out beyond its natural length.

JOHN WRATHALL

ART, SEX AND DEATH

Things you need in an artist biopic: the artist must slash the canvas, paint his face, seduce the model and be emotionally inadequate

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 12 —

WIN Tickets to The Daytrippers Plus a free meal deal



Metrodome and Ed's Easy Diner, 'the best diner in town' are giving readers the opportunity to win one of 15 pairs of tickets to the film and a free meal deal to the value of £15.00. Released nationwide on 24 July and starring a top notch cast of Parker Posey, Hope Davis, Liv Ullmann, Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott, this film by first time director Greg Mottola is set to be this year's indie hit. This is an intimate and humorous look at one deeply dysfunctional family's misguided roadtrip, which develops into a harebrained adventure.

To win your own evening trip out, simply answer the following question: Q: Much of the action in *The Daytrippers* is set against the backdrop of downtown Manhattan, which other film-maker is particularly linked to the 'Big Apple'? a. Steven Spielberg b. Woody Allen c. Danny Boyle

METRODOME Ed's

Send your answers, plus name and address to: The Daytrippers/Ed's Dinner Competition, Metrodome Distribution, 25 Maddox Street, London W1R 9LE. Metrodome Distribution's decision is final and correspondence will be entered into. Entries must be in by 12 Noon 24/7/98

"An extraordinarily assured and imaginative film... A MASTERPIECE"
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ARTOIS**
SCREEN

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YOU'LL SEE ALL YEAR.
THE GUARDIAN
INTELLIGENT.
BRUCE
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FAST TRACK

GRADUATING TO THE WORLD OF WORK

Beat the boys at their own game

Women find
Shoot-'em-ups
boring - so they
are designing
their own games.
By Rachelle
Thackray

THERE ARE two children in a room, sitting at a computer. One, a 10-year-old boy, is intent on the screen, jabbing furiously at the keyboard to exterminate the aliens in front of him. The other, a girl of 11, twirls her hair around her finger, watching sideways, idly distracted by the on-screen destruction, but in fact itching to get out and find something more mentally stimulating to do.

While there are exceptions to the rule, this scenario is one to which the male-dominated computer games industry has become largely resigned. For years, it has targeted a "narrow but deep" market consisting mainly of boys, teenage and younger, who will, on average, buy 12 to 18 games a year. The girls are interested - as passive observers, on the whole - but to turn them into active purchasers the industry is having to attract a new breed of computer game designer: women.

Kim Whitmore, a former Atari designer, set up her own interactive design company, Xebec, in the early Nineties with two men. She was never a fan of "shoot-'em-ups", but enjoyed games with more of an intellectual content, and while at Atari she worked on a game called Gossip, "a storytelling concept". At Xebec, she masterminded the production of tailored interactive learning packages that companies use to train their staff in specific areas.

She believes there is certainly scope for games that appeal to women, but says the industry itself needs more women at its hub.

A master's degree in physics from Imperial College, London, was a good start for her. "My degree helped substantially in terms of building structures and getting people to ask questions. When you're doing interactive design for training purposes, you have to try to provide facilitation, and you've got to understand how to break systems down and pull them together in a clear and precise way."

She gives some credence to theories that women are less



Women like games where you can 'make choices about people's lives', says Sandra Daniels, above, who has designed her own supermodel game Russell Such

oriented towards 3-D games design because of their biological make-up. "I watched a television programme that claimed women are good verbally but find it difficult to hold spatial relationships in their head. I have certainly found that's true. It's more difficult for me to hold 3-D images in my head than to do a training simulation when I have a specific goal. There is something verbal about training, because you are translating information."

Another woman who set up her own games design company, Lesley Keen, has other theories about why the percentage of women in the gaming industry is still low. "I'm not a programmer, although I've been a research fellow of Glasgow University's computer science department

for years. I'm at a conceptual level rather than actually making it happen," says Ms Keen, who was formerly a film-maker. "People ask me to give talks to schoolgirls to get more women into computing, and certainly there is a different approach to technology for a girl of 12 than for a woman of 35. But some will argue that it's not the kind of life a girl wants to lead, working 24 hours a day in a darkened room, ankle-deep in pizza boxes. Maybe it's a social or a cultural thing. One idea is that boys are programmed to be more competitive than girls, and play against each other, while girls play collaboratively."

She admits that although Internet developments will mean a breakthrough for the types of games her

company, Inner Workings, produces, it certainly will not be a doddle to corner the female market. She has, she says, noticed that women are more drawn by games such as the American best-selling Myst, which involves an in-depth story and emotional links between characters. "I don't know what it would take to make an addictive application for women. It may be that they just don't see recreation in the same way. I quite enjoy a good shoot-'em-up myself, and there are lots of women at Inner Workings, but it's the guys who stay on late at night to play Quake over the network."

The recent Games Developer UK 98 competition - where entrants from outside the industry were asked to come up with new game

concepts - exposed the lack of female interest in the sphere. Less than 5 per cent of entries came from women. One entrant was Sandra Daniels, 37, who runs a rest home in Bognor Regis. She became interested in computer games after watching her two sons play. Her ideas include a "supermodel" game, and she prefers those that have an element of puzzle and progression.

"There's definitely a market gap, and nothing is really marketed at women: I pick up these magazines and they are all for men and boys. I like really simple games, like Tetris, where you can progress up the levels, but not something you have to work out for ages. Tomb Raider, for instance, is supposed to be the number one game, but I can't even work

out how to make the girl move."

While there are some products on the shelves that are targeted at young female players - a Spiceworld game, for instance - Ms Daniels has noticed a dearth of games for anyone over 30. "You need something with role models, something where you could see someone succeeding, where you can make some choices about people's lives. Something where they progress, rather than just running an alien spaceship." There is even a market for the aged female consumer, she says. "I've plugged in the Megadrive with Sonic the Hedgehog at my rest home, and at first they were a little bit fazed by it, but it's something they could do; they haven't got to use a lot of strength, and it's simple."

Girls like
game
heroes to
be cute

A CUTE main character, a screen full of primary colours and a lot of gameplay are the characteristics in a computer game which attract girls, according to recent research carried out by NOE.

Games such as Mario 64 and Croc were voted the favourites among girls in a sample of 1,020 children aged between seven and 16, although they were equally popular with boys of the same age group.



'Myst' is one of the most successful story games

According to others in the industry, Wallace & Gromit and the game Myst - created by Rand and Robyn Miller, and a bestseller in the United States - is one of a new breed of story games which both girls and women enjoy playing.

The game, which in its saga structure recalls C S Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*, features video of real actors (including the game's creators), minutely-detailed scenery and objects, and a mythical storyline which presents the player with a choice at each stage of the game. Its successor, also by the Miller team, is called Raven.

The NOP research found that other games with appeal to girls include Tomb Raider II and Worms II, although even these games are played by twice as many boys as girls. More than 70 per cent of the sample of children were found to have played a videogame in the week before the research was conducted.

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

HEWLETT-PACKARD



Age: 37 in the UK, 59 in the US. History: Dave Packard and Bill Hewlett founded more than just a company when they set up shop in their garage in Palo Alto, California, in 1939 (now christened "the Birthplace of Silicon Valley"); they founded one of the first corporate cultures. HP opened its first UK site in 1961, and produced the world's first desktop scientific computer in 1968. Starting out in testing and measurement, HP has become one of the world's biggest computer companies. Although in 1990, *The Wall Street Journal* described it as "a torpid dinosaur among fleet-footed little predators", HP was recently listed as the world's fastest-growing PC company with success partly attributed to a reduction in cycle time. In 1992, HP moved into client-server networks and by 1995 it had a third of the market in ink-jet printers. It also has businesses in components, medical, analytical, support and consultancy.

Address: Headquarters are at Armen Corner in Cain Road, Bracknell. A third of the company's research goes on in a new £30m laboratory set-up in Bristol (including Brims: Basic Research Into Mathematical Sciences), and there is a large telecoms site in Edinburgh, plus a components site in Ipswich.

Ambience: Reputedly, a friendly, open-door company with a structured culture. Staff are kept accountable by means of set objectives incorporating performance evaluation. An informal first-name culture has

been inculcated from the beginning, and this is said to encourage trust and respect for individuals, integrity, flexibility, innovation, and a high level of achievement and contribution.

Vital statistics: HP has more than 5,500 UK employees, and 120,000 world-wide. In the UK, there are four manufacturing divisions and Bristol-based HP Laboratories. UK turnover last year was £2.08bn, with pre-tax profits of £205m and exports of £760m. The company has won several honours, including Queen's Awards for Export and last year's Quality Award for Business Excellence.

Lifestyle: HP is a strong believer in equal opportunities: it set up a Diversity Leadership Council in 1995, and also joined the American Business Collaboration for Quality Dependent Care - which sponsors projects for children and senior citizens. Graduate trainees are assigned to specific jobs when they join the company, and can then apply for internally advertised positions.

Easy to get into? Only those with 2.1 degrees or above need apply. Applicants will need to have studied electronics or mechanical engineering, computer sciences, manufacturing systems,

physics, chemistry, materials science or finance. There is no limit on graduate places, and many applicants have spent time with the company during a sandwich course.

Glimmering alumni: Both the company chairman and director of laboratories have been awarded OBEs and sit on various CBI, government and industry committees.

Pay: All employees are paid a proportional production bonus, and in 1995 a record £135m was paid to staff in profit-related bonuses. The scheme pays out twice a year: since 1992, workers with more than six months' service have received an average of 6.75 per cent of earnings through it. Pay is also performance-related.

Training: Graduates attend a standard induction course, but there is little in the way of graduate training. The responsibility for long-term training within the company lies with an individual, in consultation with managers.

Facilities: Restaurant facilities are apparently "first-class" on all sites. Many sites also have sports facilities - such as a jogging track, football field, tennis and squash courts, and a gym - as well as shops and cash points, and there is a staff discount scheme.

Who's the boss? John Golding is chairman and managing director in the UK; Dr John Taylor is director of HP Laboratories. The big boss is Lew Platt, who has been with HP since the Sixties; he is chairman, president and CEO of HP world-wide.

RACHELLE THACKRAY

Converted to inner city living

CV

TOM BLOXHAM IS THE MILLIONAIRE CHAIRMAN OF
PROPERTY DEVELOPERS URBAN SPLASH

TOM BLOXHAM, 34, is chairman of the North-west property developers Urban Splash. He became a millionaire by reclaiming old city centre buildings and converting them into trendy loft apartments or "mixed spaces" for businesses. But his first entrepreneurial steps were in selling second-hand records at market stalls. He was declared this year's UK Entrepreneur of the Year.

Growing up, I was open-minded about what I wanted to do. At first I quite fancied being an architect but eventually I thought it was too much like hard work. I was born in a village in Hampshire but lived there for only a very short period of time. My dad was a captain in the Army so we moved around a lot, and I lived in Germany for a while. I had 13 different schools by the time I was 11. My first proper job was as a porter in a department store in London. Before university I had a year out and spent some time selling fire extinguishers.

At 19, I went to Manchester University to study politics and modern history. I was quite interested in politics as a kid, and had the unenviable task of being chairman of the Labour Party Young Socialists when I lived in Surbiton, in Surrey. But after studying politics for three years I learnt that no matter how you vote, the Government always gets in. To be honest, I got totally disillusioned with politics before I went to college. There I got a 2.2, which is a good gentleman's degree - I did my revision in Goa in India.

During college, I started selling second-hand records at student unions and market stalls - my parents were living in London and I set up stalls at Camden Town and Portobello Road.

Then I started to sell posters as a sideline and this became more

profitable than the records. At that stage, I was just trying to pay for my beers. I've never really had a vision; it's all been haphazard.

After university I decided to stay in Manchester, because I liked it and the poster-selling was starting to develop into a retail business. In the beginning I couldn't find suitable premises; many landlords were not interested in dealing with unproven businesses. And I realised other people were in the same position. So in 1987 I bought Affleck's Arcade in Manchester's Oldham Street and sublet the surplus space. Many of those who took up the spaces were people I knew from college. The first tenants included designer clothes shops, record shops, body-piercers, and a condom shop - there were all sorts of wonderful things.

In 1989 we thought, "This is a good idea," and decided to set up a similar venture at the Liverpool Palace. There, I also became involved in developing and running a bar called Baa Baa. We also set up a managed workspace for James Barton, who went on to run Liverpool's Cream nightclub. Following that, we developed a similar workspace for the music industry at Dudge House in Manchester.

In 1993 I got together with the architect Jonathan Falkingham and set up Urban Splash. The idea was to create affordable city centre loft spaces in Liverpool and Manchester. When we started, lofts were just appearing in London, but we developed the first ones in the north, and



'Maverick to mainstream'

put them above commercial spaces to lease. Schemes we have completed include Concert Square in Liverpool and Sally's Yard Lofts, Smithfield Buildings and the School House in Manchester.

The basis for Urban Splash was good contemporary design and finding uses for redundant buildings. We realised people were not just interested in homes with gold bath taps. We were motivated by trying to create places where we would want to live. There was a gap in the market because even now most new houses that are built are two-storey Edwardian pastiches at the edge of a town. Urban Splash has been successful because we saw the potential of buildings which no one was prepared to take on in parts of the city that had been virtually written off. Obviously, we operate to make a profit but we are providing homes

which are not using up green-field sites. Also, in the places we have developed crime levels have fallen, because populating areas stops crime.

When we started out we were seen as maverick and crazy but now it is very much a mainstream policy. I think there is a realisation that the future is in the cities. John Prescott came to visit us last week and have a look around. And now we are often approached by local authorities looking for solutions to their building problems.

Things have improved over the last year with regard to VAT incentives for developing brown-field sites. If you develop a non-residential building into apartments, you now get the VAT back, which has been a dramatic help.

We are currently involved in more than a million square feet of developments, but the stock of buildings is diminishing as everyone jumps on the bandwagon. We are now looking at developing some new buildings. It's a new challenge for us - we are hoping to help revolutionise the way people live. In the Sixties and Seventies firms such as Ikea and Habitat revolutionised furniture; before it had all been mock period pieces. Why can't we have a housing revolution?

The advice I would give to people interested in an entrepreneurial career is to do it early. It is best to start when you have nothing to lose. I was very lucky to start at 18 or 19 when I didn't have anything. Later on in life, you start getting mortgages and commitments. The other thing is to concentrate and have complete confidence in yourself. I went through some dark times, but you've just got to believe that you're going to get through those.

INTERVIEW BY
MARK OLIVER



HOME OFFICE

TRAINEE PROBATION OFFICER POSTS

New arrangements for the recruitment and training of Probation Officers have now been developed and probation services are ready to begin their selection process to fill trainee vacancies.

Successful applicants will be expected to undertake a Diploma in Probation Studies while working as trainees. The Diploma will comprise a degree and NVQ in Community Justice, and should take about two years to complete, depending on previous experience and qualifications.

Trainee salaries will be in the range of \$11,778-\$12,504 with inner/outer London weighting if appropriate. On achievement of the Diploma, trainees will be eligible for appointment as probation officers subject to vacancies (current salary scale \$17,022-\$22,956 plus London weighting).

Trainees will be appointed from 1st October 1998 onwards and applicants must be aged at least 20 years at this time. The educational qualifications sought for entry to the scheme are as follows:-

Candidates under 21- a minimum of 2 passes at A level and 3 GCSE or 3 at A level and 1 at GCSE.

Candidates over 21 but under 25- generally 5 passes at GCSE.

Candidates over 25- acceptance without formal qualifications is possible subject to written assessment.

However, each Consortium may have slightly different requirements.

Probation work is complex and demanding and high quality recruits from a wide range of backgrounds are sought. Experience of working with offenders would be helpful but is not essential. Experience of dealing with other people who are socially or personally disadvantaged may be equally relevant. It is important that candidates understand the work of the probation service, its role within the criminal justice sector and the demanding nature of the work.

For the purposes of selection and training, the probation services have combined into nine separate Consortia areas. For further details and an application form, please send a 12" by 9" (A4) addressed envelope with \$1 postage to the Consortium area in which you wish to apply. The London Consortium is accepting telephone applications only and applicants should use the number given below. The closing dates for return of the completed forms range from 7th-28th August. Candidates must check the exact date specified by each Consortium.

CONSORTIUM AREA	ADDRESS	CONSORTIUM AREA	ADDRESS	CONSORTIUM AREA	ADDRESS
London (Inner, Southeast, South west, Northeast, Middlesex)	Tel: 0171 233 2024	Southwest (Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Dorset)	Dorset Probation Service Court Building, Worgret Rd, Wareham BH20 8BE	Northeast (Durham, Northumbria, Teesside)	Teesside Probation Service 2nd Floor, Prudential House, 31/33 Albert Rd, Middlesbrough TS1 1PE
North of Thames (Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk, Bedfordshire)	Herts Probation Service Leahoe House, County Hall, Hertford SG13 8EH	Wales (Dyfed, Mid Glamorgan, South Glamorgan, West Glamorgan, Gwent, Powys, North Wales)	Mid Glamorgan Probation Service Brackla House, Brackla Street, Bridgend CF31 1BZ	Northwest (Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside)	Probation Northwest Consortium 1c Derby Lane, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 8QA
Southeast (Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, Oxford and Buckinghamshire, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex)	S.E. Region Probation Consortium C/O Guildford Probation Centre College House, Woodbridge Rd, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RS	Midlands (Derbyshire, Hereford and Worcester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands)	Midlands Training and Assessment Consortium C/O West Midlands Probation Service 1 Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BD	Yorkshire and Humberside (Humberside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire)	Humberside Probation Service Greensawn, 1 Almyrn Rd, Gool, North Humberside DN14 6XA



Education Officer

Earth Kind is an animal welfare and environmental charity, seeking to appoint an Education Officer to develop our educational resources and Earth Kind's ship based Ocean Defenders Project.

Applicants must have a Marine/Biological Sciences degree, an understanding of humane issues and either an educational qualification or at least two years broad based educational experience. Knowledge of current marine conservation issues and an ability to communicate with children, volunteers and the public is essential. Responsible to the Chief Executive and working as part of the Earth Kind team, respondents must be computer literate and have a clean driving licence. A one year contract, with a six month probation period is offered.

Salary: c.£13,000 pa.

For an application form, please contact Gill Bell, Earth Kind, Avenue Lodge, Brooms Green Road, London N22 7EL.

Closing date: Monday 17th August 1998.

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London SE1 9NW

Closing date: 3 August 1998

Stagecoach Holdings plc have opportunities for fully mobile graduates in bus operations management, apply to:

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Stagecoach Holdings plc
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The Graduate Training Programme is designed to ensure that all trainees are equipped with the necessary skills to succeed within their chosen business area, are able to make a valuable contribution from day one and are confident in their ability to do so.

Graduates are recruited from all disciplines and the Graduate Training Programme responds to this diversity of skills and knowledge. The short initial generic programme provides trainees, via a series of presentations, simulations and projects, with core business and technical skills.

Divisional specific training ensures a full understanding of the specific business area and provides trainees with the basis from which they can tackle all challenges and actively take responsibility for their own work.

As a graduate trainee within the HR Department, you will have the opportunity to participate in all the major areas of the Department and will spend time in the graduate recruitment team, the business relationship teams, compensation and benefits and training and development. We will also support you to study for the Institute of Personnel & Development qualifications. You should have at least 24 UCAS points and a 2.1 degree. You should also have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and have energy and enthusiasm to work in this challenging and interesting environment.

Please send us either a completed company application form (available from careers services or the following address) or your CV (including 'A' level grades and degree result) to The Graduate Recruitment Team, 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS. You can also apply to us on-line at: www.schroders.com/graduate/recruitment

If you need further information, please contact: Jessica Kelsey, Graduate Recruitment Officer on 0800 282 664 ext. 6206.

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Graduates

THE 12TH OF September sees a reunion at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, for those who took the Postgraduate Diploma course in Museum and Art Gallery Studies at the University of Manchester. For details telephone: 0161 275 2185

SAYERSEA TEACHER TRAINING College 1940-1946, Reunion 10th September 1998. For more details contact 01483 364072.

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THURSDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

VICTOR KIAM, who went on television to announce the virtues of his electric shaver ("I loved it so much, I bought the company"), fronts a two-part series on the wacky world of management science. You Don't Have to Buy the Company (11.30pm R4 FM). It sounds a bit too wacky - with sketches by comedy trio Curried Goat alongside Seb Coe (right) on the subject of motivation - but

no tapes were available to confirm that impression. *Interesting Canadians* used to be a book that could never be written. Piers Lane punctures the reputation for dullness in today's edition of *The Piano* (4pm R3), which features Louis Lortie, Jon Kimura Parker, Janina Fialkowska and others alongside, naturally, Glenn Gould. ROBERT HANKS



RADIO 1
(97.9-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball
9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jo
Whalley, 3.00 Dave Pearce, 6.30
Steve Lamacq - the Evening Ses-
sion, 8.30 Live Music Update,
8.40 John Peel, 10.30 Mary Anne
Hobbs, 1.00 Clive Warren, 4.00 -
6.30 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(89.9-92.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake
Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce,
12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed
Stewart, 5.05 John Dunn, 7.00
David Allan, 8.00 Paul Jones, 9.00
Stand Up 2, 9.30 The Russ Abbot
Show, 10.30 Their Long Voyage
Home, 10.30 Richard Allen, 12.05
Steve Madden, 3.00 - 4.00
Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 On Air,
9.00 Masterworks,
11.00 Proms Artist of the Week,
11.00 Sound Stories,
12.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Szymanowski,
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert,
4.00 BBC Proms 98,
4.00 The Piano. See *Pick of the Day*
4.45 Quartet,
5.00 In Tune,
7.00 BBC Proms 98,
7.35 Perfect Symmetry. Math-
ematician Ian Stewart argues that
although symmetrical objects and
music are pleasing to the eye and
ear, the world would be a very dull
place if symmetry were not broken.
today.

7.55 Concert, part 2. Brahms:
Symphony No 4 in E minor.
9.00 Postscript. An entertainment
compiled by and starring Maureen
Lipman recasting monologues,
sketches and songs originally writ-
ten and performed by the great
comedian Joyce Grenfell. Feat-
uring 'In the Train', in which a chatty
American chorus girl remembers
the kindness of an English actor
whose funeral she has just attend-
ed; 'Tisstram', who finds God,
to the despair and embarrassment
of his liberal parents; 'Two Christian
Scientists', written by Joyce Gren-
fell and Virginia Graham, is set to
music by Denis King.
9.20 David Roblou. David Roblou

gives a recital on a harpsichord
from around 1740 by the Flemish
maker J D Duicken. Telemann:
Overture No 1 in G minor. Mozart:
Suite in the Style of Handel. K399. J
C Bach: *Gavotte in C minor*. J S
Bach: *Fantasia in C minor*,
BWV906.
10.00 BBC Proms 98. Live from
the Royal Albert Hall, London. Thir-
ty years old, but ever young, the
London Sinfonietta presents a typi-
cally adventurous programme:
Adams's witty clarinet concerto, the
challenging wildness of Rihm's
'Hunted Form' and a classic work
by Ligeti to celebrate his seventy-
fifth birthday. Michael Collins (clar-
inet), London Sinfonietta/Markus
Stenz. Ligeti: Chamber Concerto.
Rihm: *Gejagte Form*. Adams:
Gnarly Buttons.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Rameau. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today,
9.00 A Hard Act to Follow,
9.30 Dedicated to... (R)
9.45 Serial: Master Musicians. (R)
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Crossing Continents.
11.30 No Commitments.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Puzzle Panel.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: Connected.
3.00 NEWS: Call You and Yours
(0171) 580 4444.

3.30 Piers of the Community. (R)
3.45 I Take Back My Country.
4.00 NEWS: Law in Action.
4.30 The Material World.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Booked.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.35 Front Row. Francine Stock in-
vestigates the power of the patron-
age of five Princes of Wales over the
centuries in the light of a new
exhibition in Cardiff.
7.45 Under One Roof: Summer
Holiday. By Michele Hamner and
Jenny Landreth. We say au revoir to
Gillian and her family and friends as
they plan parties, fall in and out of
love and realise that there truly is
no place like home. (R/S)
8.00 NEWS: The Empire Warriors.
The second of two programmes on
the Empire was following the allied
victory in 1945 focuses on Kenya.
Dr David Anderson examines evi-
dence surrounding the charges that
regiments kept 'cricket scores' of
murders and prison warders
clubbed their charges to death.
Presented by Roger Wilkes.
8.30 The Week in Westminster.
Jonathan Freedland of the
Guardian takes a look behind the
scenes at Westminster.
9.00 NEWS: Hotlinks. Jez Nelson
investigates how domestic police
will change our lives.
9.30 A Hard Act to Follow. In the
sixth of eight conversations with
people faced with the challenge
of stepping into someone else's
shoes, Diana Madill talks to

amateur explorers Caroline Ham-
ilton and Ann Daniels who, having
successfully reached the North
Pole, have now set their sights on
the South.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Patch-
work Planet. By Anne Tyler,
abridged by Pat McLoughlin, read
by William Hope. Barnaby Gaitlin is
nearly 30, divorced, directionless
and the black sheep of his philan-
thropic Baltimore family. He also
has a heart of gold. (R/S)
11.00 On Baby Street. A six-part
series of Julie Balloo and Jenny
Eclair's comedy drama about three
mothers living in the same street. 4:
Geraldine gets some surprising
news from a publisher, Lilian has
her first experience on public trans-
port, and Ian and Shona's twins
cause chaos at Kimberley's next-
door's dinner party. With Frances
Barber and Hugh Ross.
11.30 You Don't Have to Buy the
Company. See *Pick of the Day*
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: The Ar-
canum. (R)
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.45 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 11.00
Test Match. 12.00 News; Shipping
Forecast. 12.04 - 1.00 Test

Match. 1.30 Test Match. 5.54
Shipping Forecast. 5.57 - 6.30
Cricket. 11.30 - 12.00 Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693.909kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ratcliffe and Co.
4.00 Nationwide.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Gower's Cricket Weekly.
David Gower reflects on the first
day's play at the Fourth Test at
Trent Bridge. Have your say on
0500 909893.
9.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet with
the programme that looks at the
issues behind the sporting headlines.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick
Robinson. Including the day's
sports round-up at 10.30, a late
night news briefing at 11.00, and
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Michael Mappin. 8.00 Henry
Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Con-
certo. 3.00 Jamie Clark. 6.30
Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics
at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.
11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.
3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215.197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
7.00 Jonathan Ross. 10.00 Russ
Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00
Robin Banks. 7.00 Only Ray Cokes
from 6.45pm. 7.30 Ray Cokes.
10.00 Mark Forrest. 2.00 Peter
Poulton. 5.00 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Westway.
1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 News-
desk. 2.30 Composer of the
Month. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Focus
on Faith. 4.00 World News. 4.05
Business Report. 4.35 Sports.
4.30 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO
7.00 New Talk Radio Breakfast
Show. 9.00 Scott Chisholm.
11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna
Raeburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd.
5.00 Peter Deeley. 7.00 Nick Ab-
bot. 9.00 James Whaley. 1.00 Ian
Collins. 5.00 - 7.00 The Early
Show with Bill Overton.

11.00 Golf (7487). 12.00 Motors Magazine
(34965). 1.30 Motorcross (2070). 2.00
Cycling: Tour de France (77948). See *Pick of*
the *Day*. 4.00 Mountain Bike (7058). 4.30
Tennis (2277). 6.00 Football (8043). 8.00
Football (3472). 9.30 Cycling (7473). 11.30
Motors Magazine (7477). 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (253773). 7.30 Neigh-
bours Omnibus (258910). 7.55 East-
Enders (245101). 8.30 The Bill (244588).
9.00 The Bill (246168). 9.30 Stay Lucky
(247022). 10.30 The Sullivan (249052).
11.00 The Bill (249052). 11.30 Neigh-
bours Omnibus (249052). 12.25 East-
Enders (245101). 1.00 All Creatures
Great and Small (750217). 2.00 Dallas
(245101). 2.55 The Bill (245101). 3.25
The Bill (245101). 3.55 Dangerfield
(245101). 4.55 EastEnders (245101).
5.30 Home to Roost (245101). 6.00 All
Creatures Great and Small (750217).
7.00 The Comedy Alternative: Sports
Children (209217). 7.40 The Comedy Al-
ternative: Waiting for God (209217).
8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Dad's
Army (246085). 9.00 Bugs (246085).
9.05 Bottom (246085). 10.45 The
Comedy Strip Presents (246085). 11.50
The Bill (245101). 12.20 The Bill
(245101). 12.50 Live at Jingles
(246085). 1.00 The Equalizer (246085).
2.00 The Equalizer (246085). 2.55 -
7.00 Shopping at Night (209217).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (246085). 9.00 Rolo-
da (246085). 9.30 Jerry Springer
(246085). 10.40 The Young and the
Restless (246085). 11.30 Brookside
(246085). 12.00 Jimmy's (246085).
12.35 Animal Rescue (246085). 1.00
Rescue 911 (246085). 1.30 Ready,
Steady, Cook (246085). 2.05 Rolanda
(246085). 2.55 Living It Up (246085).
3.55 Jerry Springer (246085). 4.45
Tempest (246085). 5.35 Ready, Steady,
Cook (246085). 6.00 Jerry Springer
(246085). 7.00 Rescue 911 (246085).
7.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles
(246085). 8.00 Side Effects (246085).
8.00 Films: A Night in the Family
(246085). 8.30 The Family
(246085). 11.00 Sex Life Down
Under (246085). 12.00 Close.

TNT
9.00 Films: Dinner at Eight (1989)
(246085). 11.00 Films: Affair of the Great
(1989) (246085). 1.15 Films: Captain
Blood* (1935) (246085). 3.15 - 5.00
Films: Dinner at Eight (1989) (246085).

EUROSPORT
7.00 Football (246085). 8.30 Cycling: Tour
de France (246085). 10.30 Tennis (246085).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.30 A
Woman Named Jackie (246085).
12.15 Westcountry News (252094).
1.00 Emmerdale (20149). 3.20
Westcountry News (252094). 6.00
Westcountry Live (252094). 10.45
Westcountry News (252094). 11.45
Richard Gance - for One Night Only
(252094). 11.45 Street Legal (252094).
12.40 The Jerry Springer Show
(252094). 1.35 Transpotters (252094).
2.30 Planet Mirth (252094). 3.00 3D
(252094). 3.25 The Chart Show
(252094). 4.20 Vanessa (252094).
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (252094).

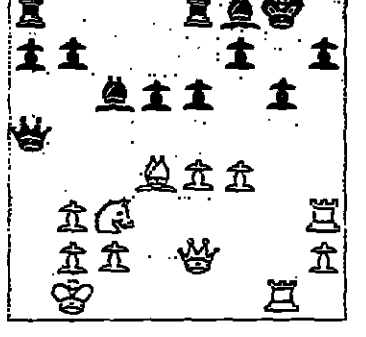
YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.30 Calendar
News and Weather (754555). 10.30 A
Woman Named Jackie (246085).
12.15 Calendar News and Weather
(754555). 1.00 Home and Away
(252094). 4.00 Home and Away
(252094). 1.25 The Jerry Springer
(252094).

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHess

WILLIAM HARTSTON

HERE'S A good test of peripheral vision: you're White in the diagram position; what would you play?



the Dutch championship. Looking leftwards, he found the simplest way of all of deflecting the queen. After 1...b4! Black is lost after either 1...Qxh4 2.Qh5 h6 3.Rxg8+ or 1...Qc7 2.Qh5 as happened in either. At the end there was no defence to the threat of 26.Qxh6+ Bxh6 27.Rxh6+ Kxh6 28.Rh4 mate.

White: John Van der Wiel
Black: Gennadi Sosonko
1 e4 c5 14 Kb1 Rf8
2 Nf3 d6 15 g5 Ne5
3 d4 exd4 16 Rg3 Bf8
4 Nxd4 Nf6 17 Rh3 Nxb3
5 Nc3 Nc6 18 axb3 Qxg5
6 Bc4 e6 19 f1 Qa5
7 Be3 Be7 20 Rg1 g6
8 Bb3 0-0 21 b4 Qc7
9 Qc2 Bd7 22 Qh5 h6
10 0-0-0 Nxd4 23 Bf5 Kb7
11 Bxd4 Qa5 24 Qb4 Qb6
12 Rh3! Bc6 25 Rg4 resigns
13 g4 Nd7

You should be drawn to combinational ideas on the K-side. 1.Rg5 perhaps, followed by Qh5. Or 1.f5 exf5 2.Qh5. Or 1.Nd5! exd5 2.Qh5. But you need good peripheral vision to see the move Van der Wiel chose against Sosonko in

GAMBLING

DAVID SPANIER

HERE IS another amazing hand from the big game at the Stakis Regency casino in Russell Square. The game was seven-card lowball (best low A-2-3-4-6, known as London lowball). Everyone antes a tenner and the highest card showing has to bring it in for £25. In subsequent rounds, the lowest hand showing speaks first.

Roddy, with a king showing, bet the pony; Stanley called with a queen. Dick, with a 3, the only low card on board, raised. The other two players called, which is quite normal play. The inference is that they each have two low cards in the hole and they suspect the raiser of having one bad card in the hole, and want to see what happens next.

Fourth street gave Roddy a 7 and Stanley an ace. Dick also improved with a deuce and bet again. On fifth street Roddy was not so lucky, catching a 10. Stanley hit another low card, an 8, and Dick did even better with a 4.

Roddy, but there's still Dick to contend with. Finally Stanley bit on the bullet. He called and raised the bet. £3,000 all-in. Dick laughed and folded. (It turned out that he had had been dealt a wire-up of threes!)

Unhappily, Roddy called for the £2,000 he had left. On card 6 he hit a jack. His K-7-10-J showing (assuming two low cards in the hole) was now almost an even money shot, because Stanley caught a queen. All the money was already in, so there was no more betting.

When Roddy paired his ace in the hole on the final card, he must have thought he was done for. But Stanley also paired with an 8, making two pairs in his hand. So Roddy's (A-2-7-10-J) lucked out against A-(2-8-A-Q).

The pot was worth £8,000. When everyone recovered from their amazement at this completely irrational hand, one pundit opined that it was the worst lowball play he had ever seen. Roddy countered this adverse judgement with the comment that he had put so much money into the pot, he could not pass!

Previously, he had been adamant that lowball was a terrible game and he only played it on sufferance. Since this hand, however, he has shown the zeal of the convert.

PUZZLE

IN EACH of the following lists, which is the odd one out:

- A: constraint, abused, extramarital, interplanetary, transportation, directorships?
B: bairn, claps, sink, eons, are, smug, aside?
(Answers tomorrow.)

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

- A: 21, 22 etc. (numbers spell with an odd number of letters)
B: 20, 24 etc. (numbers spell with an even number of letters)
C: 21, 23 etc. (odd/even numbers with a correspondingly odd/even number of letters)
D: 22, 25 (odd/even numbers with even/odd letters)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

HIGH-SPEED rail travel has been the subject of much comment recently, from the runaway success of the Eurostar service to the recent crash in Germany which revealed its dangers. Supertrains (8pm Discovery) looks at the development of the world's passenger trains.

On the subject of people travelling too fast. Cycling: Tour de France (2pm Eurosport) features a comprehensive two-hour review of the race so far.



PETER CONCHIE

(7904507). 2.30 Arthur C Clarke's Mysteri-
ous Universe (207878). 8.00 Supertrains
(8548217) See *Pick of the Day*. 9.00 Super
Structures (855781). 10.00 Medical Detectives
(249675). 10.30 Medical Detectives
(249675). 11.00 Forensic Detectives
(249675). 12.00 First Flights (732679).
12.30 Wheel Nuts (279088). 1.00 Wonders
of Weather (257927). 1.30 Wonders
of Weather (279437). 2.00 Close.

SKY 1
6.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters
from Beverly Hills (55675). 6.30 Street
Sharks (49446). 9.00 Garfield and
Friends (88265). 9.30 The Simpsons
(87679). 10.00 Games World (327672).
10.35 Games World (326638). 10.30
Just Kidding (7740). 11.00 The New Ad-
ventures of Superman (7787). 12.00
Married with Children (5782). 12.30
M*A*S*H (27747). 12.55 The Special K
Collection (915225). 1.00 Gerald
(935878). 1.55 The Special K Collection
(2216958). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael
(275658). 2.30 The Special K Collection
(275658). 3.00 Jerry Jones (330658).
3.55 The Special K Collection (968507).
4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8787).
5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (7912). 6.00 The
Nanny (2323). 6.30 Married with Children
(8675). 7.00 The Simpsons (701). 7.30
Real TV (8859). 8.00 America's Darkest
Criminal (7749). 8.30 Seinfeld (6658).
9.00 Friends (55302). 9.30 Friends
(8101). 10.00 E R (48052). 11.00 Star

Trek (52762). 12.00 Nash Bridges
(33908). 1.00-8.00 Long Play (571927).
SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (546452). 7.45
World Wrestling (89165). 8.15 Sky Sports
Centre (440856). 8.30 Racing News
(89743). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3323).
9.30 World of Super League with Eddie
and Steve (737123). 10.30 Soccer
(28304). 12.30 Tales from the Premier-
ship On a Shoestring (66762). 1.00 Euro
Tour Golf - TNT Dutch Open (843232).
5.00 World Wrestling (7304). 6.00 Sky
Sports Centre (2965). 6.30 Tales from
the Premiership Bridging the Gap (2671).
7.00 World of Super League with Eddie
and Steve (737123). 8.30 Sports
Football Mundial (778). 9.30 Tartan
Extra Special - Season Review (3351). 10.00
Sky Sports Centre (25241). 10.45 Tales
from the Premiership Bridging the Gap
(64085). 10.45 Soccer Sevens (24957).
11.00 Football Mundial (25864).
12.00 Football Mundial (729). 12.30 Tar-
tan Extra Special - Season Review
(34927). 2.00 F3 Racing (88088). 2.30
Trans World Sport (2637). 3.30 Tight
Lines (331078). 4.45 Tales from the Pre-
mier-ship Bridging the Gap (534415). 5.00
Sports Centre (27432). 5.45 Close.

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (790152). 7.30
Real TV (8859). 8.00 America's Darkest
Criminal (7749). 8.30 Seinfeld (6658).
9.00 Friends (55302). 9.30 Friends
(8101). 10.00 E R (48052). 11.00 Star

Soccer Sevens (550985). 10.00 Golf
Extra (968226). 12.00 European Tour
Weekly (727027). 12.30 Full Throttle
(963878). 1.00 Snooker (303588). 3.00
World of Super League with Eddie and
Steve (737123). 4.00 Full Throttle
(943485). 5.30 Rebel TV (335410).
6.00 PGA Senior Tour (435232). 6.30
Fastrax (434367). 7.00 Tight Lines
(104830). 8.00 Inside the PGA Tour
(646387). 8.30 Golf USA (775656).
10.30 Euro Tour Golf: TNT Dutch Open
(359533). 12.30 Ford Golf USA - US Se-
niors Open (2672708). 1.45 Sky Sports
Centre (448434). 2.30 Tales from the
Premiership Bridging the Gap (534415).
3.00 - 3.45 Sports Centre (1173223).

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling Federation Super-
stars (4893858). 1.00 Fish TV Ameri-
cans Outdoors (8524058). 1.30 Fish TV
Fishing Ties (4893858). 2.00 Sports
(4073830). 2.30 Dickie Davies's Sporting
Heroes (7190323). 3.30 Equestrianism -
ATCO Double Stalom (283684). 4.30
Watersports World (8638258). 5.30
Trans World Sport (2637). 6.30 For-
mula Three Racing (263762). 7.00 Soc-
cer Sevens (274326). 8.00 International
Cricket England v South Africa
(242875). 10.00 Bobby Charlton's Foot-
ball Scrapbook (279085). 11.00 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.00 Football (246085). 8.30 Cycling: Tour
de France (246085). 10.30 Tennis (246085).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.30 A
Woman Named Jackie (246085).
12.15 Westcountry News (252094).
1.00 Emmerdale (20149). 3.20
Westcountry News (252094). 6.00
Westcountry Live (252094). 10.45
Westcountry News (252094). 11.45
Richard Gance - for One Night Only
(252094). 11.45 Street Legal (252094).
12.40 The Jerry Springer Show
(252094). 1.35 Transpotters (252094).
2.30 Planet Mirth (252094). 3.00 3D
(252094). 3.25 The Chart Show
(252094). 4.20 Vanessa (252094).
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (252094).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.30 Calendar
News and Weather (754555). 10.30 A
Woman Named Jackie (246085).
12.15 Calendar News and Weather
(754555). 1.00 Home and Away
(252094). 4.00 Home and Away
(252094). 1.25 The Jerry Springer
(252094).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC
N IRELAND As BBC1 London except:
6.30 - 7.00 Newsline 6.30 9.30 Town
Challenge 10.15 The Breakfast Man 11.05
Machete Women 12.00 Newsline 12.30
1.00 - 6.00 Joins BBC News 24
SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except:
6.00 News 6.30-7.00 Reporting Scotland
8.30 - 9.00 The Beechgrove Garden
WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30 -
7.00 Wales Today 11.45 - 12.45
Seduced by Madness
ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 10.25 Justice of
the Land (742587). 11.25 Blue Heelers
(437994). 12.25 Anglia News and
Weather (430491). 1.00 Dinosaurs
(20149). 1.30 Home and Away (4472).
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show
(257785). 3.20 Anglia News (23238).
5.00 Shortland Street (527445). 6.00
Home and Away (39440). 6.25 Anglia
News (379101). 6.55 What's On
(22258). 10.00 ITN News: Weather
(2127). 10.30 Anglia News and Weather
(26783). 10.40 The Road Show
(2472). 11.40 Go Fishing: Light Tackle
Stars (54435). 11.40 The Football
Club (45491). 12.10 Jerry Springer (837785).
12.40 The Jerry Springer Show

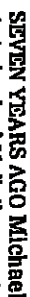
(8157347). 1.35 Transpotters (2735124).
2.30 Planet Mirth (56273). 3.00 3D
(194514). 3.25 The Chart Show (25415).
(175305). 4.20 Vanessa (25415).
4.55 Nightscreen (5085927).
CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 10.20 Central
News (754555). 12.30 ITN News:
Weather (49101). 1.00 A Country
Practice (20149). 3.20 Central News
(527149). 6.00 Home and Away
(394410). 6.25 Central News and
Weather (379101). 6.55 Lifestile (22258).
10.30 Central News: Weather and
Travel Update (26783). 10.40 Drama
and Greg (51472). 11.40 Friday Night
Fever (54435). 11.40 Still in Bed with
McDinner (45491). 12.40 Tales from the
Crypt (837785). 3.50 Jobforster
(726447). 5.20 Asian Eye (202057).
HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.20 HTV
News (754555). 12.30 HTV News
(480491). 1.00 Shortland Street
(20149). 1.30 Home and Away (4472).
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show
(257785). 3.20 HTV News (23238).
5.00 A Country Practice (327449). 6.00
Home and Away (39440). 6.25 Wales

Tonight (582304). 7.30 Grass Roots at
the Royal Welsh (675

THE THURSDAY REVIEW
The Independent 23 July 1998

Channel 5

TELEVISION REVIEW



in seven years time, but I hope I'll be watching *49 Up*.

promises more of the same, or something worse. And it's possible to see, as the level of emotional interest ebbs a little, that the series as a whole has been curiously timeless in its representation of Britain. That very first programme, made in 1984, talked about the shop steward and the executive of the year 2000, assuming that shop stewards would still be a

a, but
ing 49 Up.

MOTORSHOW OF THE DAY



THE MAGNET (150pm C4) The greatest flower — at least in the world of British television comedy — is almost surely one of the Ealing comedy, Scottish-American director Alexander Mackendrick made this comedy between *Whisky Gators* and his Hollywood mastery *Street Smell of Success*, and rather crucially, conceit a blustering yank businessman thies an old tub of a car and his sky crew — to transport furniture to his holiday home in the hills. It's a comedy that's been recently released untrifling and some prime characters

FILM OF THE DAY



THE MAGE (Ridson C4) The greatest flower... albeit a thistle! One of the leading comic, Scottish-American writers director Alexander Mackendrick made his comedy in 1953 between *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* and *My Darling Clementine*. Street Smart of *Stangers and Fathers* crucially concerning the heritage. It involves an American in Scotland, Paul Douglas as blustering drunk businessman fires an old tub of a cargo ship... and his sky crew... To transport furniture to his holiday home New-world stress old-world values. Then, with some beautifully textured writing and some prime character acting, levitating... but, you'll probably have to set the video.

6.00 5 News and Sport (S) (3398672). **7.00** **Weekend Update** (S) (1478994). **7.30** **Wipeout** (S) (6700363). **7.50** **The Wind in the Willows** (R) (483556). **8.00** **News** (S) (3355558). **8.30** **Dampholow** (S) (3358463). **8.50** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **9.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **9.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **9.50** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **10.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **10.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **11.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **11.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **12.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **12.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **13.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **13.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **14.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **14.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **15.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **15.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **16.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **16.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **17.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **17.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **18.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **18.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **19.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **19.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **20.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **20.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **21.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **21.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **22.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **22.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **23.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **23.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **24.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **24.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **25.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **25.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **26.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **26.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **27.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **27.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **28.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **28.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **29.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **29.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **30.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **30.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **31.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **31.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **32.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **32.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **33.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **33.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **34.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **34.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **35.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **35.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **36.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **36.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **37.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **37.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **38.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **38.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **39.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **39.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **40.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **40.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **41.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **41.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **42.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **42.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **43.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **43.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **44.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **44.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **45.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **45.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **46.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **46.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **47.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **47.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **48.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **48.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **49.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **49.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **50.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **50.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **51.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **51.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **52.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **52.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **53.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **53.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **54.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **54.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **55.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **55.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **56.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **56.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **57.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **57.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **58.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **58.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **59.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **59.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **60.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **60.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **61.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **61.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **62.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **62.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **63.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **63.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **64.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **64.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **65.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **65.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **66.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **66.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **67.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **67.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **68.00** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **68.30** **Shirley** (S) (3358463). **69.00**

TELEVISION GUIDE: BY GERARD GILBERT